

Cold Frame Greenhouse Cover and Shade Netting

We designed the cold frame system to help you stretch your growing season and produce as much of your own fresh and healthy, home-grown produce as possible. The Cold Frame is a sturdy enameled steel frame that stands alone or can be used with our Raised Bed (See *Ordering Information* below).

Instructions

Step 1. If you have purchased the Raised Bed and Cold Frame, assemble them using the instructions that are included with each product.

Step 2. Prepare the soil in the garden or raised bed where you'll be using the Cold Frame and plant your seeds or seedlings.

Step 3. Both the Greenhouse Cover and Shade Cover attach securely to the Cold Frame. Place the cover over the frame and secure it to the frame using the Velcro tabs on the cover.

Greenhouse Cover

In **spring and fall**, use the insulating greenhouse cover. Made of woven polyethylene, it has an access door on each side and two roll-up gable vents, with two-way zippers.

Your seedlings should be checked frequently for moisture and fertilizer needs and for thinning or weeding. Once your seedlings have adapted to the outdoors and the threat of frost is gone, you may remove the Greenhouse Cover. In the fall, the Greenhouse Cover can be used with cold-sensitive crops such as peppers or melons and to help protect crops from light frosts.

Shade Cover

During **warm weather**, replace the greenhouse cover with the woven polypropylene Shade Cover. It protects plants from the stress of excess sun and heat, providing 60% shade. The Shade Netting also helps protect salad greens and other leafy greens from heat stress all summer long.

Pollination — Don't Forget the Bees!

Crops such as peas, strawberries, beans, pumpkins and squash require pollination to produce a harvest.

At blossom time, remove or temporarily lift the cover from the bed to allow bees to do their work. Self-pollinating plants such as tomatoes can be left covered. However, be aware of the temperatures under the cover. At temperatures above 85 degrees F, tomato pollen may become sterile and peppers will not set fruit. Open the vents on the cover or completely remove the cover during the day to release excess heat so the fruit will set.

You'll want to monitor the temperature under the cover periodically to make sure it's not too hot. Most plants prefer temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees F. When the air temperature exceeds 90 degrees, your plants may show signs of stress in the following ways:

- A yellowing of the leaves.
- Plant growth slows down.
- Leaves wilt or curl under.
- Flowers are small and slow to appear.
- Fruiting does not occur.

If you see any of these symptoms, open the vents on the cover or completely remove the cover during the day to release excess heat so the fruit will set.

Reusing Garden Covers

Most garden covers will last several seasons. You can extend their life by keeping the edges pinned securely, especially in windy areas. When not being used, garden covers should be folded and stored away from sun and moisture.

Ordering Information

#37-443 Cold Frame with Greenhouse Cover
#37-445 Shade Cover
#37-456 Cold Frame
#37-448 Raised Bed for Cold Frame