Building A "Mini Greenhouse" or Cold Frame

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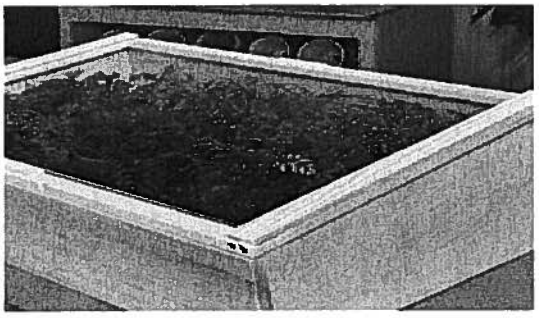


A cold frame gives you the opportunity for growing your own starts and extending the growing season in the spring and in the winter. Relying solely on the heat and warmth of the sun, a cold frame costs nothing to use and very little to build.

The first thing to consider before building a cold frame is the location. A shady spot won't produce enough sun to keep plants warm, so choose a spot that receives an ample amount of sunlight each day. A south-facing wall works the best and if you can butt it up against an existing structure, additional warmth will be provided.

Building the Cold Frame

The top and, if desired, the front, of your cold frame are old windows or even old glass doors. Instructions: Y***ou will need to build your frame to fit the size of your windows the height you want on the back.*** Although a traditional cold frame is usually small and low to the ground, the final dimensions depend on the size of the window(s) you use. Keep one thing in mind as you build your cold frame: do not make it so wide that you cannot easily reach the plants at the back. You'll also want to include a way to keep the window open for ventilation during warm days. Additional insulation can be as simple as old blankets to cover and/or a heat lamp to hang inside.

MATERIAL FOR A COLD FRAME - There's a good possibility that you might have the materials on hand. Start with an old window sash or aluminum/glass doorframe, then build the box to those dimension's. For example, if the window sash is 36 inches wide and 6 feet long, that's the size you want to make the frame.

Tools and Materials

Tools:

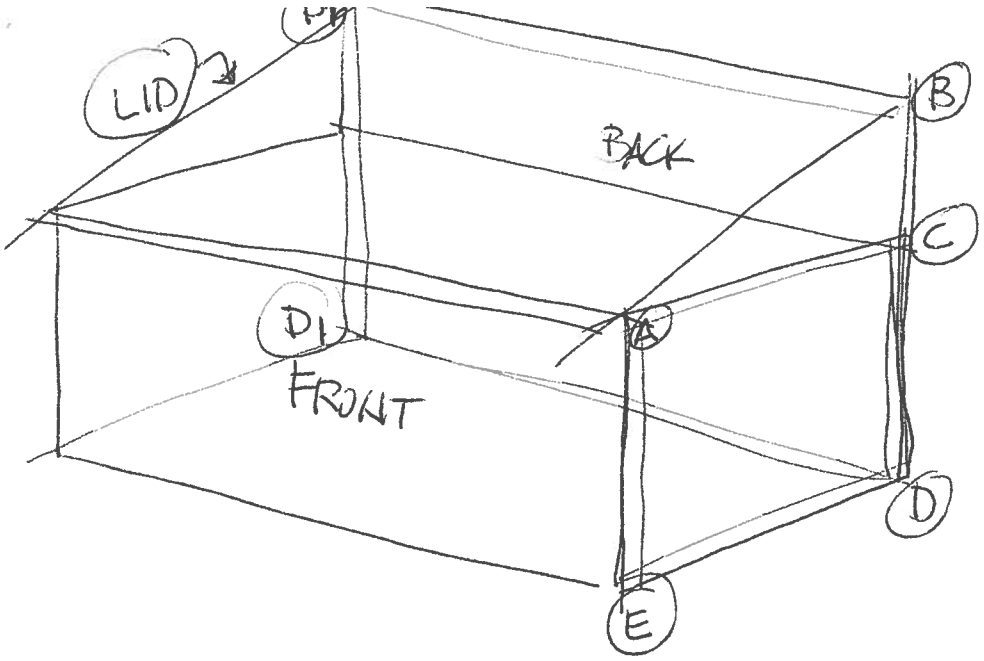
- Tape measure, Saw (Skill or Hand Saw), Jigsaw (or someway to cut Plexiglass if that is what you are going to use), Level or square, Drill (hand or electric)

Materials:

1. Glass windows or doors (2 if you want to a glass front)
2. 2 x 4's
3. wafer board (1 sheet or part of 1 sheet depending on how big your windows are)
4. plexiglass sheets (24" x 30" is $15.99)
5. 2 - 3" long hinges
6. nails and wood screws – 2 inch long, washers for plexiglass
7. paint if desired

Alternatives

- Cement blocks in a rectangular shape to hold a window on top.
- Modified raised bed frame- size of your window to place on top and back is higher than front (front could be 2 x 8 and back could be 2 x 12



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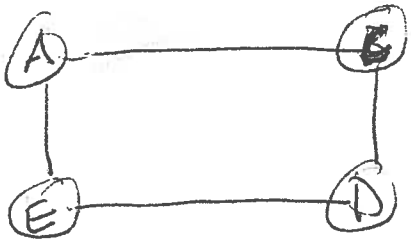
(1) LAY LID ON THE GROUND WITH POINT (A) REPRESENTING THE LOWER FRONT CORNER

(2) RAISE THE BACK OF THE LID TO YOUR DESIRED HEIGHT (B) RECOGNIZING THAT DISTANCE (B) TO (D) DOES NOT EXCEED 36".

(3) HOLDING B AT THAT HEIGHT, MEASURE DISTANCE TO POINT (C)

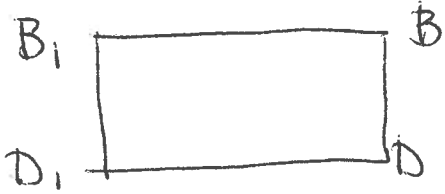
(4) THEN MEASURE DISTANCE (A) TO (C).

(5) ONCE THOSE MEASUREMENTS ARE OBTAINED, MEASURE & CUT 2 x 4's (OR 2 x 2's IF YOU HAVE THEM) TO BUILD "SIDE FRAME."



NAIL OR SCREW TOGETHER. AT THIS POINT, YOU CAN ATTACH THE FRONT TO THE SIDES.

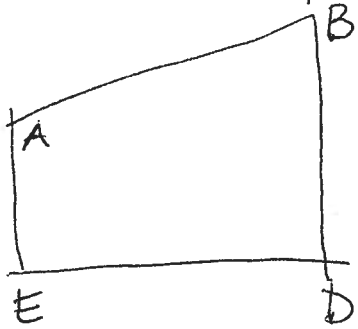
(6) THEN MEASURE AND CUT 2x4's TO BUILD THE BACK FRAME AND THEN NAIL OR SCREW TOGETHER. ATTACH THE BACK TO THE SIDE PANELS.



(7) MEASURE & CUT WAFER BOARD SHEET TO COMPLETELY COVER THE BACK SIDE AND TOP.

(8). LAYING PLEXI-GLASS SHEET ON THE GROUND OR FLAT SPOT, MEASURE AND TRACE (W/BLACK MARKER) THE SIDE PANELS

PLEX = .16" THICK



(9) USING A JIG SAW, CAREFULLY CUT TO DIMENSIONS ABOVE. WEAR PROTECTIVE GLASSES.

(10) DRILL HOLES THAT CAN BE USED TO MOUNT PLEX TO SIDE AND BACK FRAMES. USE A WASHER AND WOOD SCREW TO MOUNT.

(11) ATTACH HINGES TO LID AND THE TOP OF THE BACK FRAME (B - B,)

(12) ATTACH HANDLE ON THE FRONT OF THE LID.