



## GREENHOUSES - PART I

**Want to Learn More About Sheltered Growing Structures on Orcas?  
We've Got You Covered!**

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In our temperate climate with (mostly!) mild winters and relatively short summers, it makes a lot of sense to extend the growing season. Covered structures can really open up possibilities well into the shoulder seasons and even year-round. Plus, there are SO many choices available for every budget and lifestyle. We found a terrific variety of folks using their sheltered structures in many different ways, from seed starting in spring to winter plant sheltering.

More structures will be featured in the March issue, and we'd love to expand the search. We've already received a request for more information about passive heat sources such as water barrels. If you know of anything let us know. Send a photo and description, comments and questions [HERE](#).

Read on to learn about some of the versatile and creative structures we found:

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### **LAURA L'S HOME-GROWN HOOP HOUSE**

Laura scavenged all plastic and parts from local sources. Laura's garden will be part of the Garden Tour in June, so you can visit her place and see other ingenious ways Laura incorporates used items in her garden.



#### **Laura's Advice:**

Start small. Begin with starts rather than seeds. Be thoughtful about the layout of your beds and don't allow hidey holes for voles.

★ Garden Tour Participant 2022

## CAROL'S MICRO GREENHOUSE

Carol just installed this tiny greenhouse facing south on her deck. Made by Peter Mohlman, it replaces plastic wrap and is designed to fit over a triple tier frame.

Check out that sweet driftwood handle!



### Carol's Advice:

Convenience is key to frequent use. They'll have lots of salad greens long before spring.

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## CRAZY CROW'S MACRO GREENHOUSE

Crazy Crow's Greenhouse is a work in progress, with grow lights and plumbing installed. Bedding structures are assembled and soon to be filled. Crazy Crow will be on this year's Garden Tour, so come in June to see what's new.



### Crazy Crow's Advice:

To deter voles, dig a deep perimeter, line with protective ground cloth and fill with gravel.

★ Garden Tour Participant 2022

## EMMY'S LOW TUNNEL

Low tunnels, also called quick hoops, are like a small greenhouse that covers a raised bed or rows of in ground plantings that you can't walk into.



### Emmy's Advice:

Having your greenhouse or structure close to your home is crucial. Temperatures can fluctuate widely here in the late winter and spring. If you don't have an automated system to vent your greenhouse when the sun comes out, you are going to want to have it nearby. Emmy also mentioned that these spaces are very inviting in the winter for rodents. Having a cat helps immensely!

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## ORANGERIE - LAURA and CURTIS

Laura and Curtis have created a plan that will facilitate workflow. Their Greenhouse is designed with some interior flexibility to allow for changes.



Their Advice - Really consider how you are going to use your greenhouse. Pick a place on your property with good southerly sun exposure. Secure your structure for the elements. Carve out a small space for a chair to enjoy.

## **TONY'S KIT GREENHOUSE**

Tony's 10'x16' greenhouse has polycarbonate glazing and cedar framing on a concrete foundation.



Tony says:

"When the soil temperature in the raised bed reaches 60 degrees, I'll plant out tomato seedlings. Last year this was in early March and I harvested tomatoes in June. During the summer, a thermostatically

controlled exhaust fan keeps the air temperature below 85 degrees."

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## **ANTOINETTE'S FABULOUS FLOORING**

Antoinette's husband, Vance Stephens, scavenged most of these bricks from Anacortes. They are "fire bricks," once part of a large saw mill chimney that was dismantled.



Antoinette's Advice:

Antoinette uses her greenhouse to start seeds on heating mats and to grow container tomatoes and eggplant in the summer.

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**Do you have a greenhouse or other covered outside structure you'd like to share?**

Email us a photo and description and look for more great Greenhouses in our March Newsletter

[EMAIL US](#)