



GREENHOUSES - PART II

Covering More Ground

Perri Gibbons & Laura Walker

March 2022 - *The Island Gardener*

This month, we're continuing to showcase examples of the many structures gardeners are using to extend their season on Orcas. Of particular interest, we surveyed some participants to get a sense of what's happening right now in early March:

"I sow tomato seeds in trays covered with plastic wrap. This is similar to the way Carol Miles at WSU Mt. Vernon does it. Once seedlings appear I remove the plastic wrap and after a few days transplant them into four inch pots under LED grow lights. When the soil temperature in the greenhouse is 60 degrees in early April I'll transplant the seedlings there. Last year Sun Gold cherry tomatoes were ripe on June 15".



"I use my greenhouse primarily for starting flower and veggie seeds, in early March. I have better germination rates using the greenhouse, and I am able to create orderly rows with good spacing by using home-grown transplants. Also save \$\$ by creating my own starts".

"I don't start tomato seeds until March because I only want to pot them up once before they go into the garden. This saves me on potting soil costs. I start two seeds in six cell trays, then transplant them into 4 inch pots".

SCHOOL GARDEN'S PLANT CATHEDRAL



You'll find this beauty on the Orcas Island School grounds, as part of their Farm-to-Cafeteria program. Note the lovely cypress wood arches- no wonder they call it the Plant Cathedral.

Colleen says:

“The greenhouse is a critical tool for starting seeds and growing heat-loving plants in the Pacific Northwest. The kids help us sow the first seeds of spring in the greenhouse and they tend the plants and snack on the produce within. They always seem fascinated with the dramatic change in temperature, which is a lesson in itself!

The Garden Club contributed a grant towards the construction of this greenhouse.

EMMY'S COLD FRAME



A cold frame is a transparent outdoor frame that protects plants from cold weather while still letting sunlight in. This means your plants get natural sunlight and extra warmth.

Currently, Emmy is growing hardy annuals planted last fall as well as bulbs and corms. She's starting perennial seeds and slow growing annuals under grow lights indoors.

CANDACE'S SMALL KIT GREENHOUSE



Candace's greenhouse has translucent polycarbonate which helps protect plants from the sun. She plans to add roof shades which can be lowered in the summer and removed in the fall.

Check out these sweet plants and decor!

Advice: Install waist high benches to make it easier to take care of plants and attend to seedlings.

MARGARET'S MULTI-PURPOSE GREENHOUSE

Margaret makes best use of her greenhouse space for plants AND people. This simple structure uses recycled windows and doors.

Used as a workshop, as well as space for starting seed and growing hot weather plants, this greenhouse earns its keep!



MARK & PERRI'S LEAN-TO STRUCTURE



Mark and Perri took advantage of an existing building to save on material cost and used salvaged sliding glass doors.

Look what's in there!



Advice: Perri has started seeds in a south facing window, so it's possible, but using heat mats and overhead lighting has really upped her seed starting game.

REPURPOSED OLD BUILDING NEAR EASTSOUND

This is a former pump house circa 1920, now being used for seed starts and storage.



Want to learn more?

The Hobby Greenhouse Association

<https://www.hobbygreenhouse.org/> home page has a free publication regarding choosing a greenhouse. Membership in HGA is \$35 per year and includes a subscription to the quarterly magazine *Hobby Greenhouse*.

Rural Sprout 27 DIY Greenhouses for Every Size, Budget & Skill Level

https://www.ruralsprout.com/diy-greenhouses/?fbclid=IwAR02pIeGGv56Prykn2667m_NSVAQdO3PS9eATTl8f35Qld3LmHikIe9mhQk

Resources Used by GC Members:

**** For informational use only and not endorsed by the OIGC ****

Charley's Greenhouse and Garden, Mt. Vernon, WA

<https://charleysgh.com/>

Sturdibuilt Greenhouse Manufacturing, Portland, OR

<https://sturdi-built.com/>