

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Why grow in a greenhouse?

Greenhouses are important options for gardeners because they are beneficial far beyond just increasing the growing season, though that may be what they're most known for. When using a greenhouse, your options and growing season are not dictated by the changing weather outdoors. A greenhouse allows you, the gardener, to manage temperature, have complete water control and protect from harsh winds or other natural occurrences which can damage a garden.

Having out-of-season vegetables at your fingertips is another benefit to greenhouse growth, because tomatoes, peppers and other summer veggies can jump in price at the local grocery store when colder months hit.

However, in addition to being able to better manage the environment in which your plants grow and extend their growing season, greenhouses can bring forth lots of other benefits, too.

Higher quality growth and higher yield:

Not only does a greenhouse increase the growing season, but it also can help increase the quality of the vegetables you're growing. If you're creating optimum growth conditions for your plants, then clearly the plants will produce more and higher quality fruit. Once you get the operations of a greenhouse down, you can provide just the right amount of water, heat, shade and light to foster the best growing environment for the plants.



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Making money:

For more experienced gardeners who know their way around a greenhouse, greenhouse growth can be a way for gardeners to make money in the offseason. Obviously, plenty of people have a plethora of fresh vegetables at your local farmers markets in the summer months, but when a gardener can offer fresh, local, summer vegetables in the middle of winter, it's a gamechanger.

Another avenue for profit with a greenhouse is when you're growing cool-weather vegetables outdoor in your garden in the spring, you can also grow warm-weather vegetables inside your greenhouse and bring a wide variety of all sorts of veggies to a market stand.

Soil benefits:

One of the reasons plants may do better in a greenhouse is because of the specifically-chosen soil used to grow greenhouse plants. This soil doesn't have



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the same risk factors as garden soil does when it comes to pests and diseases affecting your plants. Because of this, greenhouse plants don't typically struggle with fungi, pests or bacteria. Since plants aren't having to direct energy to repair or defend against pests and diseases, more energy can be directed to producing healthy fruits.

Plenty of variety:

Greenhouses don't have to be huge structures the size of a barn, although they certainly can be. Greenhouses can range from small structures mounted on a window to a large building, so nearly anyone can operate a greenhouse, regardless of how large their property is or where they live.

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