

Coldframe

Material				Cut List					
Qty	Length	Dimension	Type	Qty	Length	Qty	Length	Qty	Length
5	6'	1 x 6	Cedar	5	47.25"	5	23.25"		
2	8'	2 x 2	Cedar	2	46.5"	2	23"	1	21.5"
1	6'	1 x 4	Cedar	1	43.5"				
1	8'	2 x 4	Treated	2	11"	2	16.5"		
1	8'	26" wide	Corrugated Plastic	2	24.5"				
1	3'		Flat Plate	2	18"				

Additional Material

1	Handle
	1 1/4", 1 5/8" & 3" screws
2	Hinges
1 pkg	Horizontal Plastic Closure Strips
2	4" Flat Corner Brace 2 pk

Skill Level: Intermediate

Cost: approximately \$75

Assembly Directions

1. Cut the 1x6 cedar boards. Take 1 of the 23.25" boards and cut in diagonally corner to corner.
2. Cut the 2x2 cedar posts. Cut the flat plate.
3. Cut 2 11" and 2 16.5" pieces from the 2x4. Cut one end of the 16.5" pieces at a 15 degree angle.
4. Cut the 1x4 cedar board to 43.5".
5. Attach the 1x6 pieces to the 2x4 corner posts with 1 5/8" screws.
6. Drill a hole 3/4" from one end of each of the 46.5" and 23" 2x2's. Put a 3" screw in each of these holes and screw it into the non-drilled ends.
7. Attach the 1x4 cedar to the inside back of the cold frame 1/4" below the top.
8. Drill a hole in the center of the frame for a center support. Put a 3" screw through the hole into the center support for the top.
9. Attach a 4" flat corner brace to the 4 corners of the lid bottom with 1 1/4" screws.
10. Attach Horizontal Plastic Closure Strips along the front and back of the lid cover with 1" nails in pre-drilled holes.
11. Attach the 2 hinges to the lid and the back of the cold frame box.
12. Attach the handle to the center of the lid with 1 1/4" screws
13. Cut 2 24 1/2" sections from the corrugated plastic roofing. Attach the roofing to the lid with rubber washer 1" screws in pre-drilled holes.
14. Attach 1 flat plate to each side of the lid.

Coldframe

Coldframes are used to protect plants from wind and low temperatures using solar heat for warmth. The sun heats the enclosed soil during the day, and at night the coldframe cover slows the loss of this heat. To help retain heat during the night, the sides of the frame may be banked on the outside with soil or cased in insulating material.



The north wall (the back) is taller than the south wall (the front) for better sunlight exposure. Place the coldframe in an area reasonably protected from wind where it will receive all possible sunlight during the winter. During sunny and warm weather, raise the cover for ventilation throughout the day and then close the cover at night.

If natural drainage is not good, use drainage tile or a thick layer of coarse gravel below the frame. A convenient water supply should be available.



A coldframe is used to provide shelter for tender perennials, to “harden off” seedling plants or to start cold-tolerant plants such as pansies, cabbage or lettuce earlier than they can be started in open soil. It may be used to overwinter summer-rooted cuttings of woody plants. Coldframes can be used to grow some of the hardier vegetables (lettuce, chives, parsley, carrots, green onions, kale, cut greens, brassica greens and radishes) during mild winters.

Plants can be grown in a coldframe using a prepared soil within the frame or pots and/or flats placed in the frame on

sand or gravel.

A hotbed is built very similar to a coldframe. The major difference, a hotbed uses an additional source of heat.

Prepared by WSU-Pierce County Master Gardeners

For similar information, go on-line to www.pierce.wsu.edu/mg/