

Congratulations on the  
your new Greenhouse from

Garrett Portable Buildings  
918-685-0672  
Display Locations in  
Checotah(ofc) & Muskogee  
[www.garrettbuildings.com](http://www.garrettbuildings.com)

Growing plants in a greenhouse is the dream of most gardeners. Before you get started, let's review what your greenhouse is capable of and how to use it properly. It's best to know how to maintain optimal conditions in the greenhouse if you want your plants to thrive in their perfect environment.

Having your own greenhouse provides multiple benefits:

- The ability to start seeds earlier
- It provides the perfect environment for exotic plants
- Fresh vegetables year round
- Excellent conditions for over-wintering tender plants

Our greenhouses come in different sizes, and depending on the style and options you purchase, your greenhouse may include an electric package (which includes a light, exhaust fan as well as heating and cooling thermostats.)

The Electrical Package dramatically increases the usefulness of a greenhouse. For example: Lighting creates the opportunity to visit your greenhouse after dark and work on planting seeds and performing other gardening tasks. Having a heating system, in addition to solar heat, means you can grow almost anything year-round. Having an exhaust fan means that you won't need to be constantly monitoring the temperature so your plants don't overheat.

Our Greenhouses are covered with a very high quality, best in the industry, polycarbonate exterior paneling. Multi wall PC sheets have an internal structure of ribs, which means the sheets have high rigidity and are also very light-weight. In addition, the air inside the sheets gives them high thermal insulating properties. A co-extruded UV-stabilized exterior layer provides high resistance to yellowing, backed by a 10-year non-prorated warranty against discoloration and breakage. Twin wall polycarbonate also holds up to hail amazingly well.

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### Heating and Ventilation

The ideal temperature inside the greenhouse is about 80° to 85°, so the first and most important lesson is learning how to keep the internal temperature steady. Greenhouses mainly harness the sun's rays to heat the interior air, although some may also have supplemental heat sources powered by gas or electric heaters. Just like a car, the building's interior can quickly heat up to over 100° on a warm, sunny day. You must regulate the temperature or you risk stressing and perhaps even killing your plants.

We recommend setting the COOLING thermostat to 85°F and the HEATING thermostat to 55° - 70°F. We also recommend NON-DIGITAL oil filled electric space heaters, because they are reliable, long lasting and economical. All our greenhouses include an auto-vent that does not require electricity. The opener has a metal cylinder containing a mineral which expands when heated.

This happens at 80° - 90°

This pushes a piston that opens the vent. As the temperature cools, the mineral shrinks and a spring closes the vent and resets the piston.

The opening and closing of the vent is gradual allowing just the right amount of air flow for cooling.



For the summer time, here are some tips to ensure good ventilation:

- On warm days, open the window on the storm door to allow a breeze to cool the greenhouse.
- Make sure the exhaust fan is turning on and off as needed. You can also use additional stand fans as needed to keep the air moving.
- Shade cloth (a thick screen-like material) can be stretched over the top of the greenhouse in the hot seasons to cool the plants and shade them.

It can be purchased through Tek Supply: 1-800-835-7877

### Controlling the Humidity

Humidity offers many benefits, particularly to tropical plants. Unless you're raising cacti, keep the greenhouse at least 50 percent humidity, or higher. To add humidity to the air, install a irrigation system with spinner misting nozzles. (Available at LOWES) Alternatively, put marble or stone chips on the floor under the plant benches or tables. These can also help create humidity if they're dampened down on a dry day.

### Four Seasons of Gardening

A greenhouse offers four seasons of gardening pleasure. Here are ideas for using a greenhouse during each growing season.

- Spring: Start seeds in trays inside the greenhouse. As the seedlings emerge, transplant them into larger pots and keep them in the greenhouse until all danger of frost is past.
- Summer: Start fall flowers, perennials and other plants inside the greenhouse.
- Fall: Start holiday plants like amaryllis bulbs inside the greenhouse.
- Winter: Use the greenhouse to grow some cold-hardy vegetables such as lettuce, cabbage, kale and spinach. Protect tender herbs and annuals you want to save, such as geraniums, by growing them in the greenhouse throughout the winter months. Also citrus trees thrive in a greenhouse over winter.

### Challenges of Growing Plants in a Greenhouse

Molds, fungi and viruses love the warm, humid conditions inside a greenhouse. Ensure good air circulation and keep an eye on your plants for pests and diseases. Isolate affected plants right away so you can treat them and keep the problem from spreading. Some of the most common insects are aphids which can be controlled with ladybugs (we order from AMAZON) Spider mites are also a common one which can be controlled by spraying with a mixture of DAWN dish soap and water (2 tablespoons to a gallon of water).

We hope you enjoy your greenhouse for many years to come.

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our greenhouses --