

4 Frugal Ways To Set Up a Greenhouse



Are you interested in setting up a greenhouse, but you don't have the funds to do so? There are many frugal ways to set up a greenhouse, so let's take a look at them below.

The Clear Garbage Bag

To allow sunlight to penetrate into the plants, you need to use a clear garbage bag. Create a dome-like frame using wires for support and insert the garbage bag from the top all the way to the bottom. To lock the moisture in and prevent the plastic from flying away, tie the open end using a rope or tape.

For only a few bucks, you can now protect your plants from

extreme cold weather.

Transparent Containers

Empty water gallons/bottles or disposable food containers are also great for DIY greenhouse. Depending on the size, you can protect multiple or single plants from harsh weather –even pests. These containers will simply act as a cover. Be sure it's heavy enough so the wind will not knock it off.

Since these items normally just occupy your storage or sit in your yard as trash, using them for this purpose is virtually free.

Wood Frames and Plastic Sheets

For small garden plots, you can create an A-Frame using wood pallets and cover it securely with clear plastic sheets. Wood pallets are perfect because they have some gaps for the sunlight to seep through.

For larger garden plots, you can create a box frame using purchased lumber or long, straight (or almost) branches from trees. Secure the transparent plastic sheets above and on the sides of the frame using staples or nails.

Convert an Existing Structure into a Greenhouse

If you have an existing structure such as a shed or garage that you're not using, you can convert it into a greenhouse. This is a great option if you have the space, but don't want to spend the money on a new structure. You'll just need to add some windows big enough to let the sunlight in.

These are just a few frugal ways to set up a greenhouse. If you're interested in growing your own plants, but don't have a

lot of money to spend, then consider one of these options.

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Profitable Greenhouse Crops: Money in Your Pockets



You've been growing for a while. You've built a DIY [greenhouse](#) (or [invested in one](#)) and decided that you want to turn your hobby into a profitable small business. Which plants should you focus on growing to ensure steady cash flow? Here are the

most profitable greenhouse crops that you should consider growing:

Tomatoes

Tomatoes are the star of the garden world, and they thrive in greenhouse conditions. People love [tomatoes](#)! Choose specialty varieties, like heirloom strains, to offer unique selections to your customers. Pick indeterminate varieties for a continuous yield. No farmer's market stand is quite right without tomatoes, after all.

Leafy greens

Lettuce, [kale](#), chard, spinach are highly sought after produce items. There are also plenty of specialty varieties that can be marketed as gourmet. Leafy greens are easy to grow and harvest. They also mature quicker than many other types of produce. Spinach, for instance, takes less than a month before it's ready to harvest. People don't mind paying a premium for fancy, flavorful lettuce mixes.

Rhubarb and Swiss Chard both great options that have edible leafy red stalks, and you can use this free comprehensive guide on how to [harvest rhubarb](#).

Herbs

Basil, cilantro, sage, rosemary. These are all popular with both chefs and home cooks. Most herb plants offer multiple harvests and require minimal space. You can grow them alongside other high-yield crops, as well. If you have an overflow of herbs, it's also possible to dehydrate them and sell dried, packaged herbs to customers.

Microgreens

Microgreens are a super-profitable greenhouse crop. They're

also incredibly easy to grow and provide a hefty return. You don't even need a greenhouse to get started with growing microgreens, but a dedicated space is definitely an advantage. It takes less than a month to grow a tray of microgreens so you can harvest A LOT during a season. They also fetch a high price per pound. People love them because they're tasty and nutritious. The drawback of this crop, though, is the short shelf life.

Things to consider before jumping right in

Of course, starting a hobby farm business and selling profitable greenhouse crops is a bit more complicated than selecting high-value plants. **You can't sell produce without a buyer.** Who will buy your plants? Will you sell directly to a local restaurant? Or do you plan to set up at a farmer's market? Considering demand is vital. Don't choose what to grow before you fully understand what your buyer wants. If your goal is to sell to a local restaurateur, have a chat and ask about what they might need then plant accordingly.

Think also about **how long individual plants take to mature.** Tomatoes are popular at farmer's markets, but they also require a long growing season and take up a significant amount of space. Does it make sense to focus on this crop if you have a tiny greenhouse space? Or should you focus on [quick-growing](#) plants that will yield multiple harvests and provide more opportunities for income?

Don't forget to factor in the effort required to grow plants. Certain types of produce require a lot more effort to grow than others. Many greens, for instance, don't require a lot of babysitting, but eggplants and tomatoes need a lot more TLC.