

FREE PLANS

SIMPLE HOOP HOUSE PLANS

By: Mike McGroarty

<https://mikesbackyardnursery.com>

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Copyright © 2023 Hill Country Digital Media, LLC. All rights reserved.

No portion of this report may be reproduced in any form without permission from the publisher, except as permitted by U.S. copyright law.

The easiest way to protect your plants for the winter is to put them in a row, say 6 or 7 pots wide. You only want the row about three feet wide, so put that many pots in the row.

Then go to a building supply company and buy a roll of the wire mesh that is used for reinforcing concrete. This is pretty stiff material, and it has 6" square holes.



What you are going to do is cut the wire mesh into sections about 7' long, but you'll have to figure out exactly how long before you start cutting.

What you are doing is making hoops that you will place over your row of plants. When you cut your wire mesh cut right in the middle of one of those 6" holes. That will leave you 3" prongs that you stick in the ground to keep the hoops in place. Overlap the hoops just a few inches.



Cut the Wire Mesh in the Center of the 6" Squares



Once the mesh is cut you can stick the cut end into the ground

Once the hoops are all in place, stretch a piece of "WHITE" plastic over top of your miniature hoop house, and weight it down on the sides with sand or other suitable material.



Stretch white plastic over wire mesh and weight down with sand

Sand seems to hold better than bricks.

You can go to the feed store and buy nylon feed bags and fill them with sand. When spring gets here, if you put the bags of sand in your shed or under a heavy tarp you can use them again. If you leave them in the sun they won't last more than a year or two.

Now. This is important!

Always use WHITE plastic so the plants stay dormant all winter. Then when spring comes you have to start cutting some holes in the plastic to keep it from getting too hot under the plastic.

Or remove the plastic completely before the plants break dormancy. This is a judgment call. Don't remove the plastic if the buds are really swollen and ready to open. You have to catch it before that happens.

Or just leave the plastic in place until the danger of hard freezing is past, just make sure there are plenty of holes, and make them big enough for lots of air to get through. I usually make the holes about 24" in diameter, but not on top of the hoop house. Put them on the side so the frost can't settle in.

Most plants can handle a frost once they break dormancy. The problems occur when you have a hard freeze after they leaf out. Even then, many plants can even handle that, but it can harm others.

Your goal is to keep them sleeping as long as you can, then you don't have to worry about them.