

Cool-season Gardening Resources

Common season-extension devices:

Cold Frame. A boxlike structure, usually made of glass or rigid plastic attached to a wood frame. Uses: grow winter vegetables; warm the soil and get an early start in spring planting; cover a nursery bed for seedlings that will be transplanted; “harden off” potted seedlings.

Cloche. More portable than a cold frame, or at least more compact for storage. Common design is a “hoop house” with flexible hoops forming a tunnel that you cover in plastic. Uses: warm and dry the soil; start spring garden earlier; grow hot crops until mid-summer; replace plastic with mesh for summer shade, pest protection; continue growing-on crops in the fall; overwinter hardy crops.

Hot Cap. A single-plant cover (glass, plastic or wax paper) commonly used on seedlings or heat-loving plants when transplanting. Uses: get early start with head lettuces; start hot crops like tomatoes, peppers and eggplant; plant a nursery bed of leaf lettuces or other greens; protect plants into winter.

Floating Row Cover. Spun-bonded polyester fabric that allows light, air and water through when placed loosely over a bed with the edges held down. Uses: warm and dry the soil slightly in early spring; protect starts from pests; keep seedbed evenly moist; shade crops in summer, protect from frost in fall.

Sources for season-extension materials:

A.M. Leonard Co., Piqua, Ohio, www.amleo.com

Charley's Greenhouse and Garden, Mount Vernon, Washington, www.charleysgreenhouse.com

DripWorks, Willits, California, www.dripworks.com

Gardener's Supply Co., Burlington, Vermont, www.gardeners.com

Lee Valley Tool Ltd., Ogdensburg, New York, www.leevalley.com

Peaceful Valley Farm and Garden Supply, Grass Valley, California, www.groworganic.com

Books on year-round edible gardening:

Colebrook, Binda, *Winter Gardening in the Maritime Northwest*, Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 2012

Coleman, Eliot, *The Winter Harvest Handbook* (2009) and *Four Season Harvest* (1999), White River Junction, Vt.: Chelsea Green Publishing

Gatter, Mark & Andy McKee, *How to Grow Food in Your Polytunnel*, Devon, England: Green Books, 2010

Thorness, Bill, *Cool Season Gardener: Extend the Harvest, Plan Ahead, and Grow Vegetables Year Round*, Seattle: Skipstone, 2013

Gardener-centric weather websites:

AgriMet, US Department of Interior, Pacific Northwest region, www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/

Dave's Garden, www.davesgarden.com

RainWatch, Seattle, www.atmos.washington.edu/SPU

Western Regional Climate Center, www.wrcc.dri.edu