

CHAPTER 11

GROWING INDOORS

Growing plants undercover - in an enclosed greenhouse.

There are many advantages to undercover growing. Those that are heated provide year round opportunities to enjoy your own fresh produce or flowers and those that are not at least give you a very early start to the season. Uncooled, greenhouses tend to be overheated during summer and capital and running costs are relatively high. But as a means of providing natural warmth and protection during the late winter and early part of spring, the greenhouse is very good.

If you have your system set up so that it can be moved in or out of the greenhouse you have a very versatile system. But as previously mentioned, an enclosed greenhouse also aids and abets the proliferation of a range of insect pests that can be difficult to control and impossible to eradicate. But if you have a greenhouse with a comprehensive climate control and possible also the means to provide the shade when needed, you may well be able to live with the problems of pest control.

In an open sided greenhouse

These, we have found to be the best option. The ideal installation would be a north facing greenhouse, attached to the brick wall of a house on the south side with large glass sliding doors on the other three sides. The doors remain shut in the winter and open in summer allowing natural summer cooling and birds and predator insects the opportunity to get in to feed on aphids and white flies. The brick wall retains heat or coolness.

Inside the house without artificial lighting

Sunrooms, or in some of the more modern homes, atriums are the ideal interior location. Under large skylights, in one of the type of bay windows specially made for plants or just near a good light window are other options. Some homes have enclosed pool areas that also are great for the purpose. Even an exterior location under a shade cloth covered pergola is good.

Inside the house under artificial lights

The Auto-pot system is ideal for use in the house but lack of light is a condition that will make good performance from the system unlikely. There are artificial lighting units designed for growing plants that can give you year round growth of crops like lettuces and decorative plants



*A Lean-to Hot House.
The wall which the hot house
leans to provides considerable
warmth in winter.*



*A Stand-Alone Hot House.
Comes with the option of having a
removal shade cloth for summer.*



*A Shade House.
Comes in different colours.*

Hydroponics Made Easy

like orchids and ferns. For those who want to pursue the prospect of growing under artificial lights and want specialised reference, a book on the subject called "Gardening Indoors" written by George F Van Patten is one that we have found to be both readable and informative.

***H.I.D. Light
running costs.***

*- per week.at the cost of 12
cents/kilowatt hour.*

<i>Lamp wattage</i>	<i>@ 12 hr/day</i>
200 W	\$2.00/week
400 W	\$4.05/week
600 W	\$6.05/week
1000W	\$10.10/week