

Carnivorous Plants

Constructing a greenhouse

People have different reasons to keep a greenhouse in the garden; to grow fruit and vegetable plantlets, a place to sit in on cool days, or nursing a collection of (exotic) plants. Your choice will determine the location, decoration and size of the greenhouse. When you optimize your greenhouse to your goals you will have the maximum benefit of this nice hobby.

In this online manual you will learn the basic steps to to construct a greenhouse which will be best suited to grow *Sarracenia*, *Dionaea* and many species of winterhard and subtropical *Drosera*. All sunloving plants who often need a cool winterperiod. This makes heating in winter almost never necessary in the Netherlands. The best location is an area in the garden with a great deal of direct sunlight throughout the day, without sunblockers like trees in the near area.

Constructing a greenhouse is not difficult when you have the right material, tools and helping hands!



Dig out a layer of dirt for 20-30 cm and replace it with yellow sand. Leave this open in the rain for a few days or firm it severely. Make sure the sandlayer is horizontal/level.



Place the concrete slabs and secure them firmly with a heavy rubber hammer. Make sure every slab is level, also after a row of slabs, make sure this level too. Often these concrete slabs are offered for free on online market (www.marktplaats.nl)



Next construct the greenhouse frame. See the Factory manual for instructions. Tip: If you bought your greenhouse second-hand, make pictures of it, also make sure you have close-up photo's from the (glass pane) connections.



Carnivorous Plants

The greenhouse is almost finished, only the roof need to be constructed! The type of placement of the greenhouse is important. The both ends are pointed East and West. This means that the longer side of the greenhouse faces South. This will generate more light and heat for the plants!



The greenhouse can be attached by screws to the concrete slabs, but we prefer to lay down a level concrete foundation and attach the frame on this. It is also easier to do. Don't forget to sweep sand into the rigs between the concrete slabs.



Check again that the frame is level, preferable the watergutters. Drill holes in the frame were you want to attach these to the concrete foundation. This greenhouse is attached with 16 RVS screws. Note: this greenhouse is 2 x 2,5 metres (6.2 x 8 foot) and 2 metres (6.2 foot) tall.



Mark with a marker the holes on the concrete foundation. Put the greenhouse frame away and drill the holes.



Place the frame on the foundation. Bold the frame onto the foundation. Check again if the greenhouse is still level, also the gutters.

Carnivorous Plants



Next the door can be installed. To mount the glass panes onto the frame see the manual from the factory. Tip: the glass panes can be very sharp. This is also a moment to clean the glass when the greenhouse is second hand.



Tip: start with the roof, that is better to handle without the other glass in.



Here you can see the clips which holds the panes.



These metal hooks keep the panes in place when a larger glass area need to be installed.



The greenhouse is ready and is level! Time for a beer.

Carnivorous Plants



There are many professional growtables available. Because of the high price we choose to create these ourselves from wood. All elements are pre-cutted at the store where we bought them. We only need to do is attach them with bolts to each other. This growtable is 200 x 70 cm and 10 cm tall to store a lot of water.



Before painting it with a primer we check if the table stands suitable! The supports for the tables are also bought from the painting department from the store.



We use a white primer to protect the wood from the moist environment.



When the tables are dry they go immediately into the greenhouse. We use pond liner of good quality to decorate the table. Little pieces of wood under the supports makes the growtable level!



Tip: Mount an automatic vent in your greenhouse! After installing and tuning (which is easy) the climate in the greenhouse is safely controlled. Ventilation is very important and saves you a lot of work!

Carnivorous Plants



Close-up of the mounted automatic vent. We used a piece of wood to make the vent more stable.



The greenhouse is ready! The plants can be put in the growtables, and the space beneath can be used for materials and plants which doesn't require direct sunlight.



Tip: Attach a waterbutt to the gutters of your greenhouse. There are special gutter/greenhouse kits available, and with use of pond-pipes you can attach the waterbutt. We used a flexible pond-pipe in our setup. Rainwater is free and much better for the plants!



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