

Small Polycarbonate Greenhouses = Big Benefits

"Enhance your growing capabilities and extend the season"



Greenhouse gardening provides a multitude of benefits for the avid gardener. Germinate warm weather seedlings, protect frost tender plants, cultivate exotic flowers, propagate landscape perennials, or grow leafy greens throughout the year.

Whether you're a professional gardener or just starting out, a garden greenhouse creates the optimal environment for growing fresh vegetables, herbs, and flowers in your own backyard. A truly 'green'

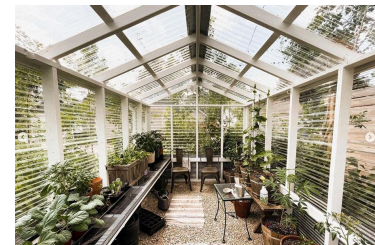
investment.

Greenhouses can be both useful and beautiful structures in the garden. This definitely describes Katie and Karl Kloos hobby greenhouse at [Northern Natural Gardens](#). The design was sketched out by Karl, and his main focus was on simplicity and strength.



"I've always dreamed of having a greenhouse for growing plants as well as having a warm spot to enjoy the sun while surviving long Minnesota winters," said Karl. "When the opportunity came up to get my hands on some salvaged 2x4's, I just kind of went for it! We used clear corrugated polycarbonate panels for aesthetics, ease of use, and cost effectiveness."

Over the last couple of years, Katie and Karl have learned a lot about greenhouse gardening and have utilized their greenhouse to grow a variety of plants used in the natural gardens they design, install, and help maintain. Restoring native ecosystems in the Twin Cities — one yard at a time!

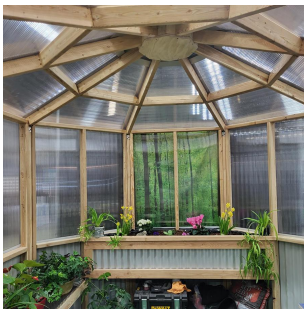


While some may be comfortable going the DIY route like the Kloos, purchasing a greenhouse kit is a great option for those a bit less handy with a saw and hammer and can be a huge timesaver.



For nearly two and half years now, Stu and Bill Hillis have been building greenhouses in their home state of Montana. The idea of an octagon-shaped greenhouse came from a gazebo Stu had designed and built for a local client. This is what started their company [365 Home Harvest](#) — custom built greenhouses to suit every grower needs.

Virtually maintenance proof, their high-quality greenhouse kits feature a solid wood construction frame, steel corrugated lower wall panels with metal trim, and double- or triple-wall polycarbonate panels. "Our octagon design is considerably more efficient than a square or rectangle greenhouse," Stu said. "Plus, a person has a structure that is welcoming rather than a 'box' in their yard."



There are many types of garden greenhouses that you can buy or build, from simple, cost-effective structures to elaborate, expensive ones. The style and size will depend on the climate where you live and the range of plants you want to grow.

Choosing the right greenhouse covering is also very important. Common materials are polyethylene film, fiberglass, acrylic, polycarbonate, and glass. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. With so many options available, several factors should be considered including light transmission, UV-protection, durability and impact strength, thermal efficiency, and cost.

*Interested in building your own garden greenhouse but not sure where to start?
The friendly and knowledgeable team at AmeriLux is here to help turn
your gardening dream into a reality.*

Featured Product

LEXAN™ THERMOCLEAR™ 15 Softlite

LEXAN™ THERMOCLEAR™ 15 Softlite is a 100% light diffusing panel utilizing advanced polymer technology to scatter light while maintaining a high level of light transmission (79% PAR 8mm / 72% PAR 16mm).

- **High Light Transmission**
- **100% Light Diffusion Feature**
- **Anti-Condensate Coating**
- **Virtually No Yellowing**
- **Retains Mechanical Properties**
- **Excellent Thermal Properties**

This diffusion feature is excellent for greenhouse applications. Light encompasses both top and bottom leaves resulting in uniform growth, brighter colors, and more usable energy to the plant.

Plants benefit from high levels of natural diffused light while being protected from harsh, intense sun rays. High light transmission results in healthier, fuller plant development.



Natural light is scattered in many directions. The result is a softer light that helps reduce unwanted glare, hot spots, and shadows.

[Visit Product Page](#)

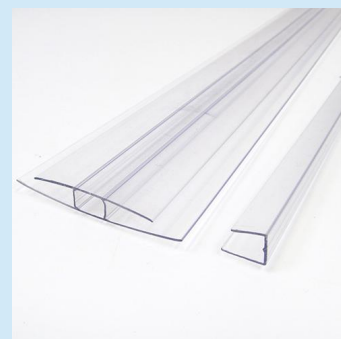
DIY Tip of the Month

Cold Frame Gardening

A cold frame or 'mini' greenhouse is a simple transparent enclosure built low to the ground that creates a micro-climate within your garden, protecting plants and seedlings from harsh weather conditions such as cold winds, sleet, or frost.



Using Polycarbonate U- and H-Profiles



Q: What are polycarbonate U- and H-

Passionate hobby gardeners, Chris and Linda De Beck live in Bellevue, Wisconsin. With limited space on their property for a traditional greenhouse, a cold frame was a great alternative for growing their vegetables and flowers from seed.



“Wisconsin has a shorter growing season and some plants, like tomatoes and peppers, need to be started in early spring,” said Linda. “Having a cold frame allows us to get the plants outdoors where they benefit from the warmth of the sun yet

are protected from any harsh outside elements until they are ready to be planted in the garden in May.”

While glass is often used in cold frames, it is more susceptible to damage and breakage. “Polycarbonate is easier to customize than glass.” Linda went on to explain: “Plus, it’s a lot lighter and less fragile than glass. You can also drill holes in it. Overall, it’s easier to work with.”

Inspired to build your own cold frame greenhouse? Call 888.602.4441 for more product information. Ask about our ‘polycarbonate drops’ for price discounts!

profiles used for?

A. A polycarbonate U-profile may be used to cap off the top and bottom of a multiwall polycarbonate sheet, preventing dust, bugs, and water from entering the sheet’s flutes. It is important to drill weep holes in the bottom edge of the U-profile to allow for proper condensation drainage.

A polycarbonate H-profile is used to join two multiwall polycarbonate sheets together, providing a finished and professional look. Technically, a polycarbonate H-profile can be installed horizontally **but** this may lead to potential issues with leaking. For this reason, it is highly recommended that polycarbonate H-profiles are only installed vertically, or with the slope. (Polycarbonate profiles are not intended as a waterproof solution.)

Note: The 'longer leg' of both profiles should always be installed on the inside of the sheet. In other words, facing the interior of the structure.

[More FAQs](#)

Benefits of Anti-Condensate Polycarbonate Panels

Why is an Anti-Condensate Coating Important?



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When choosing a covering for a greenhouse, make sure to select a panel that prevents condensation buildup.

Condensation forms when warm, moist air meets a cold surface and changes into water droplets. This can cause a lot of problems for greenhouse owners, including loss of light transmission, mold, mildew, and crop spoilage.

An anti-condensate coating reduces surface tension, encouraging water to condense into a thin layer. This condensation layer is then carried away and diverted down the sides of the greenhouse instead of dripping on plants.

Anti-Condensate Benefits



- Better light transmission
- Minimizes plant disease
- Reduces pesticide use
- Overall healthier plants

Links of Interest

- [Incorporating natural lighting in the architecture of commercial buildings has many benefits ranging from improving employees’ comfort, productivity, and health to lowering energy consumption.](#)
- [Once a 1950’s stucco-clad synagogue, the Gorya Kaufman Performing Arts Center on LA’s westside is clad with translucent polycarbonate panels, creating a beautiful glowing effect in the evening.](#)

- In addition to polycarbonate walls on the north and south facades of the Iowa City Public Works building, a row of polycarbonate windows lines the east façade, bringing in soft, diffused daylight.

Company Highlights

AmeriLux Chili Cook-Off

The AmeriLux Family Fund hosted their first chili cook-off on March 20th. Several members of the A-Team participated in the event, hoping to win the judges over with their flavorful chili recipes.



For a small donation fee of five dollars, A-Team members received a cup of each chili to taste test along with a ballot to judge the delicious concoctions. The competition was very close among the participants but, in the end, the bragging rights went to:

- **1st Place: Maggie Brown**, Business Unit Manager - AmeriLux International
- **2nd Place: Lucas Fett**, Maintenance Technician - AmeriLux International
- **3rd Place: Tony Newberry**, AmeriLux Experience Coordinator - AmeriLux International

A big thank you to everyone! The event raised \$150 for the AmeriLux Family Fund which will go towards helping those in need in our local communities and beyond. Together we can make a difference!



Meet the A-Team

Employee Spotlight | Eric Reinemann

After graduating from St. Norbert College last year and completing an internship with a local customer-brand dairy company, Eric joined the AmeriLux International Supply Chain Team in June of 2022.

As a Supply Chain Analyst, Eric enjoys how each day presents something different. "It is refreshing being able to face and complete different challenges each day." He went on to say, "The most challenging aspect of my role so far has been learning a new industry and everything that comes with that. This has been made a lot easier with the help of everyone around me."

Of AmeriLux's ten culture statements, Eric feels he relates to the core value 'Consider It Done' the most. "I feel no matter the situation, it is important to face it with certainty and confidence in



"AmeriLux has a culture and work environment that felt



"We Don't Drink Our Own Kool-Aid"

We have the audacity to expect success, but we make a conscious effort to handle it with humility. We remember that our stakeholders determine whether we are successful. We make an effort to avoid false paradigms and remain open-minded. "It's not what you don't know that limits you, it's what you do know that isn't so." We acknowledge that others help produce our wins, both inside and outside the company, and express our gratitude to them.

March Brand Ambassadors:

Amanda Wery, Accounting Associate - AmeriLux International
Scott LaPlante, DC Production - AmeriLux International

[How We Succeed at AmeriLux](#)

The AmeriLux Family of Companies

[AmeriLux International](#)

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[Shape Products](#)

