



PREPARING YOUR GREENHOUSE FOR WINTER

It's that time of year to think about taking protective action as cooler temperatures and shorter days are here. Proper winterizing is the key to your winter grow. Following these 4 simple steps can prepare greenhouses for winter:

1. Give Your Greenhouse a Thorough Cleaning

Fall is a great time to completely remove all plants from your greenhouse, clear off surfaces and empty any pots. Then give all of your equipment a thorough scrub with cleaner and disinfectant. Also, clean the greenhouse frame with a disinfectant or diluted bleach, and clean covering with dishwashing detergent (for polycarbonate). Be sure to use a non-scratching rag or sponge so as to not damage your covering. Check all doors and windows securely close - otherwise, that winter wind and moisture could do some serious damage.

2. Fix Tears, Holes and Check Hinges

Even the smallest gap in a doorway or hole in an exterior wall invites in cold air of winter. Check all around your greenhouse for gaps, cracks, and holes in your covering material. If necessary, apply patches when possible. For larger tears or holes, you may need to consider replacement coverings - a major savings when compared to emergency repairs after a nasty winter storm. Check any part of the greenhouse that moves (hinges, vents, door handles, etc.) and give a lubrication treatment with grease or a silicone-based product to ensure reliable operation as temperatures begin to drop.

3. Get Your Heating System Ready

If you plan on keeping some hardy winter crops going through the winter, growers need to make sure their plants have plenty of heat to keep growing. Make sure to have heaters serviced regularly. Also make sure your heating unit has enough power for the size of your greenhouse - otherwise, it may not provide enough heat to be effective.

4. Ensure Healthy Airflow

Heat and soil alone are not enough, your winter crops need fresh air to stay healthy - but the cold temperatures outside can make it difficult to keep circulation going. Ventilation systems and interior greenhouse fans can be helpful to keep air moving while still preventing heat loss to the outdoors.

With just a little preparation you can keep your greenhouse running smoothly through the fall, into winter, and straight through until spring. Still need some help getting your greenhouse in shape for winter? Get in touch with a GK greenhouse expert and we'll help make sure you've got everything you need. Check out www.GKGreenhouses.com and start winterizing!