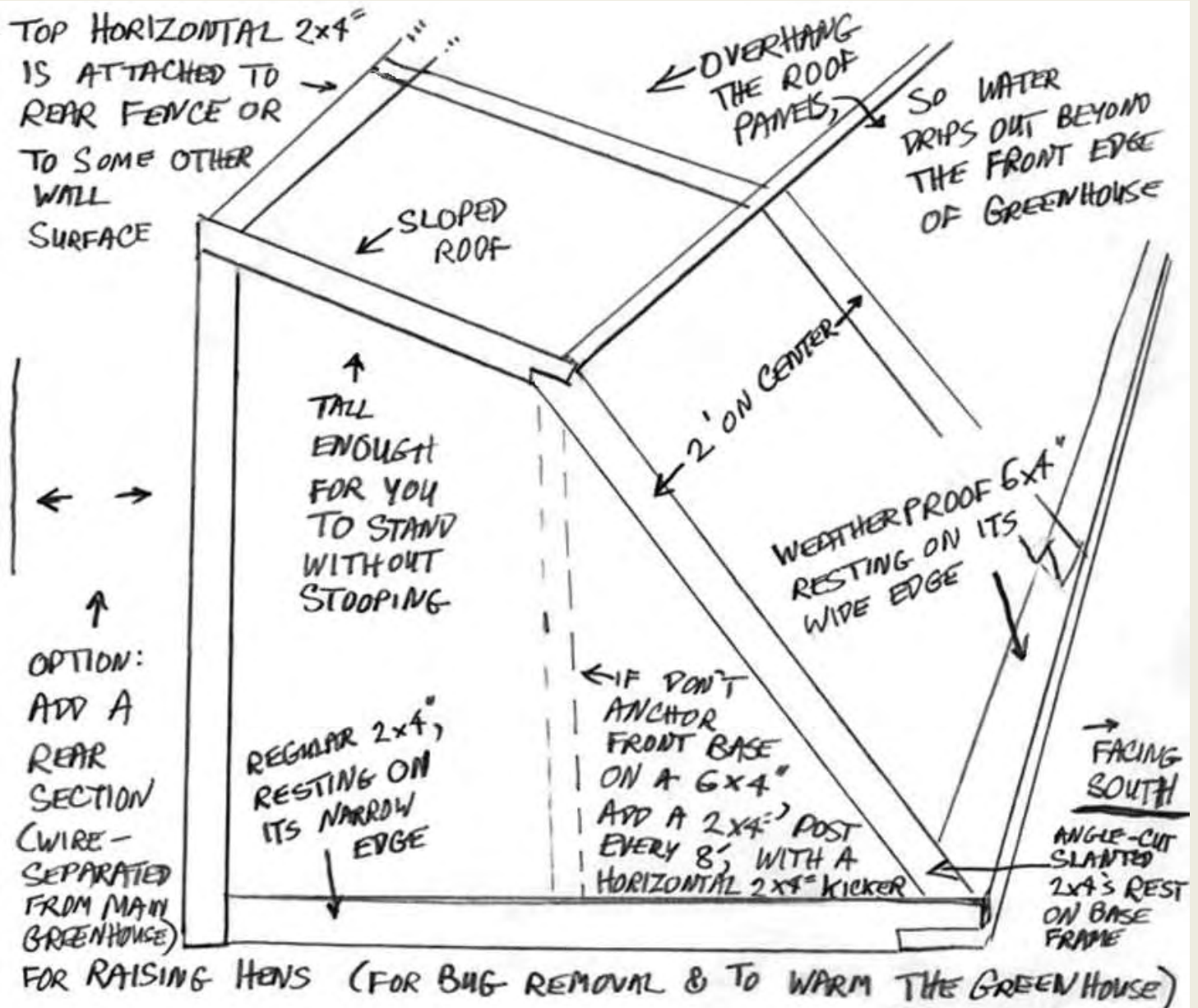


How to build yourself a greenhouse

See pages 2-4 for actual [pictures](#) of such a greenhouse. Supplies needed:

- 2"x2" lumber of various lengths
- 2"x4" lumber of various lengths
- Clear polycarbonate corrugated panels, 26" wide (sold in 8' and 12' lengths) (Home Depot has [Suntuf® panels](#), @ \$18.93 and \$29.90)
- Five hinges
- 1 door handle
- 1 door latch and 1 window latch
- Nails and/or screws (including heavy-duty screws to affix the front base)
- [Roofing screws](#) with bonded washers (to attach panels to the frame)



Pictures of this style of greenhouse:



**Door
view
(left)**

**Window
view
(right):**

**Photos
taken
9/21/08
at 7,954'
elevation**

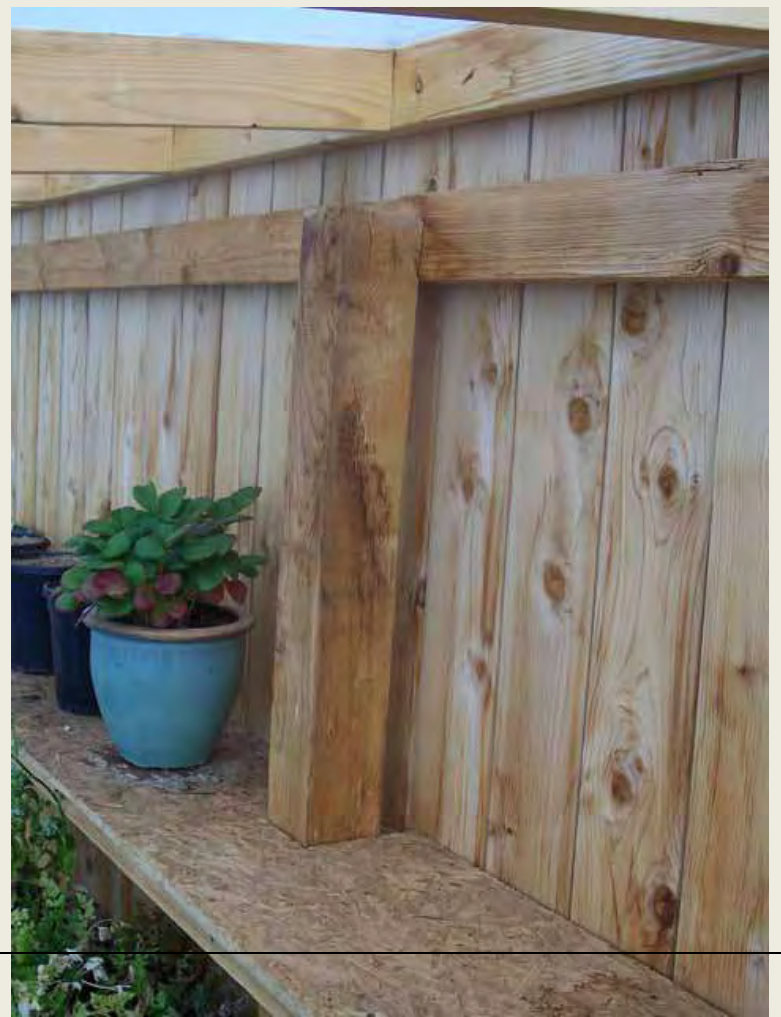




Corrugated plastic panels cost more initially, but will hold up much longer than the plastic sheeting shown here (plus, you won't need to attach trim pieces to hold it on).



Note the shelving along the rear of the greenhouse – which is a tall privacy fence. Instead of wood (which will rot as the water seeps into it), use plastic-coated [metal shelving](#) pieces instead.





To read about someone who used hens in her greenhouse functioning year 'round on Martha's Vineyard off of the coast of Massachusetts, read the book *Soliva* by Anna Edey. The Soliva.com site also has some information (usual disclaimers; we have no association with her or Soliva and do not recommend everything you may read there).

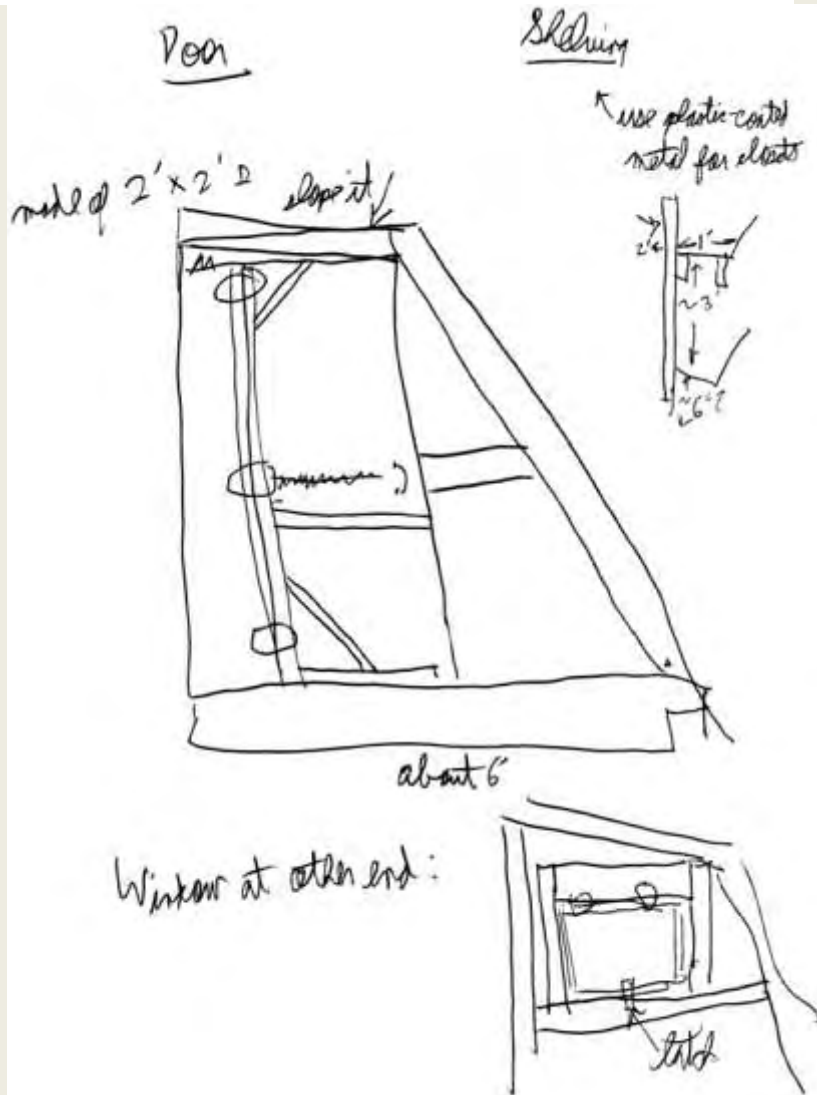
For a related item, order our [Emergency Preparedness QuickBook](#) (item #64; \$4).

Happy building, and blessed growing.

Let us know how *yours* turned out!

Email: crossover@ellison.net

Todd Ellison, 10/17/2008 (updated below, 8/29/2011)



Here's a variation on this design, (pictures, September and January) using windows that were removed from a home that had its windows replaced.

Even if you never grew anything, it's a great place to go to get warm, and a great place for drying things.



The black polyethylene pipes (on the north wall – facing the southern sun) are solar powered. They are 90% filled with water (not totally filled – to allow for expansion), to absorb warmth during the day and release it in the night. Sealing the ends is the main challenge.

Tips from a friend, for how to harvest all winter without a heat source other than sun:

“Grow winter hardy greens and root crops, such as spinach, mache, swiss chard, kale, minutina, arugula, mustards, carrots, radishes, beets, turnips, kohlrabi, etc. With these crops you can harvest all winter long without using a heat source other than the sun. However, and this is a big however, YOU MUST NOT MISS YOUR LATE SUMMER/FALL PLANTING DATES or these crops will not grow enough to be harvestable size during the winter. Although these crops can survive the winter, they either slow growth entirely or substantially with the cold.

“Use Agribon row cover. It provides an extra layer of protection inside the greenhouse. The greenhouse plastic provides one zone of protection (i.e. you move from a zone 4 to a zone 5) and the row cover adds another zone of protection. Do not sit the row cover directly on top of your plants, because the cold can cause it to freeze to and damage them.

“Eliot Coleman is by far and away the most innovative expert on winter hardy vegetable growing. He does it all in Maine.” **Two books by Eliot Coleman:**

- [The Winter Harvest Handbook: Year-Round Vegetable Production Using Deep-Organic Techniques and Unheated Greenhouses](#)
- [Four-Season Harvest: How to Harvest Fresh Organic Vegetables from Your Home Garden All Year Long](#)



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