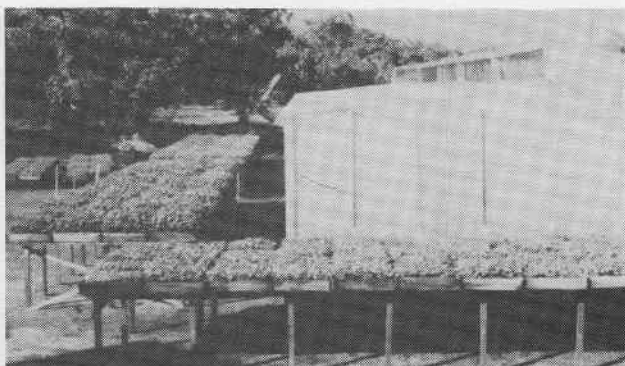


Building an Inexpensive Seedling Greenhouse

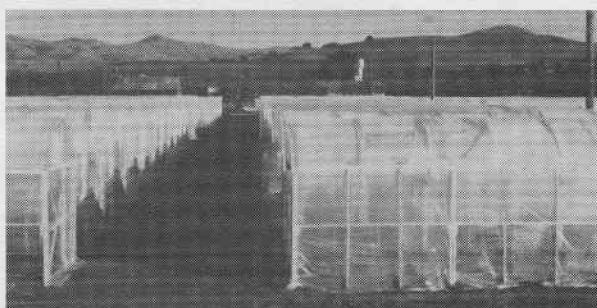
Growing plants from seed ahead of the normal planting season has a number of advantages: . . .



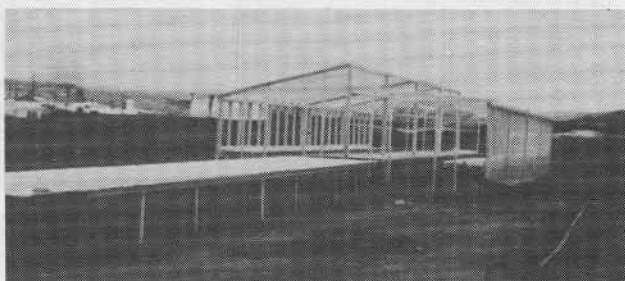
. . . the plants are stronger and more vigorous, they mature earlier, produce more uniform and larger yields, cut costs on weed and insect control, etc.



Transparent fiberglass and clear plastic sheets have drastically simplified greenhouse construction. Today there are many types, sizes, and shapes of greenhouses. But not every design or shape of structure is best suited to grow quality seedlings.

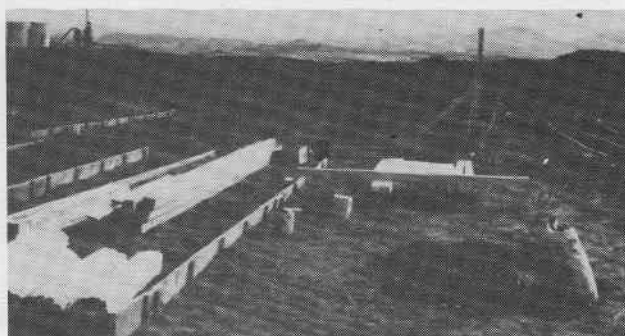


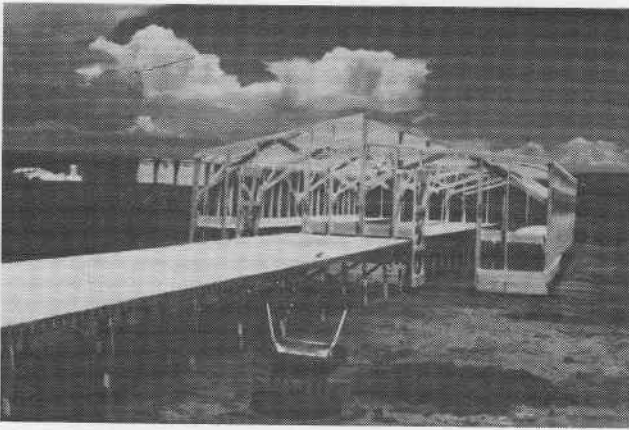
This chapter deals with construction of a seedhouse which is simple in design, easy and quick to construct, very inexpensive, and highly functional. This type of construction simplifies growing procedures and produces strong seedlings with minimum effort and reasonable care.



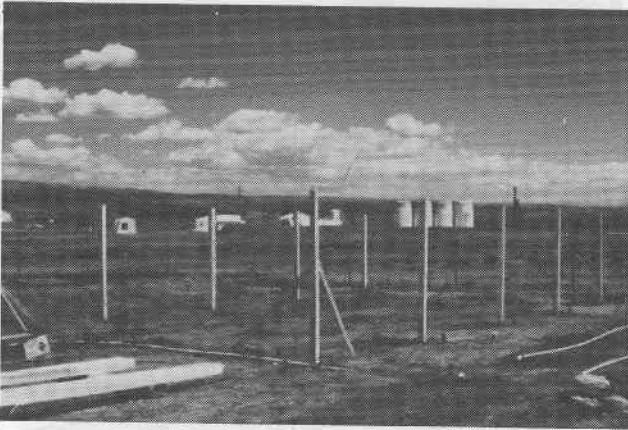
Orientation

Choose a flat, level area, large enough to accommodate the size of structure desired, with additional space to expand if necessary.



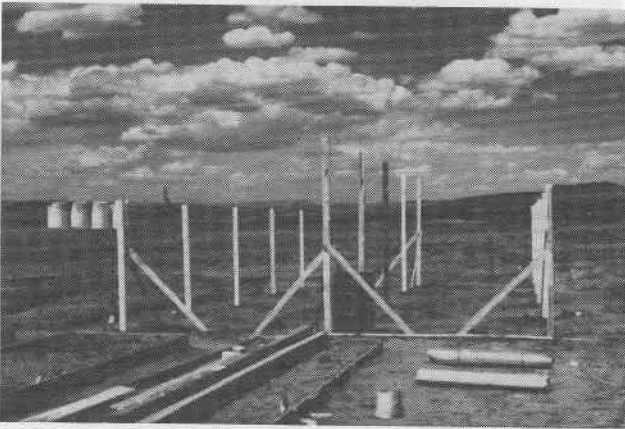


Full sunlight is essential. In the northern hemisphere, face the length of the building east and west. This gives the broadside a southern exposure and all the plants get maximum light when the days are short and the sun is farthest south.

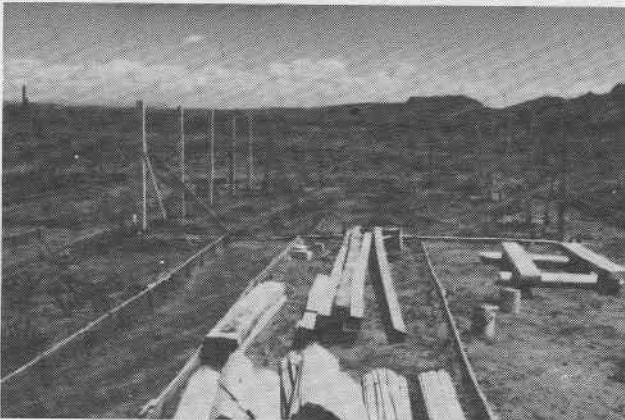


Construction

The size can vary to fit the need. Because of the size of our project, this chapter deals with a structure 20' wide \times 40' long and 8½' high at the peak. (Yours can be proportionately sized to contain the seedlings you need.) The frame is made of 4 \times 4 posts and 4 \times 4 stringers. If the posts are pine or fir they should be of treated lumber to resist termites and rotting.

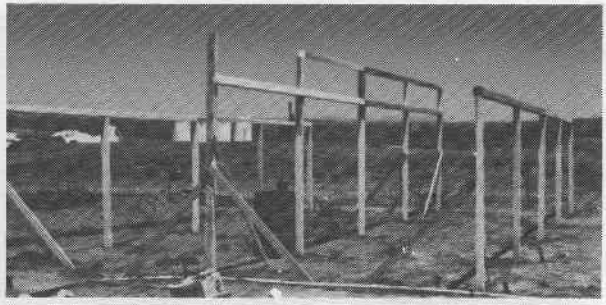


The first step in construction is to clear and level the area. Then set stakes for the 4 \times 4 posts. The posts are 10' apart each direction.



The posts for the sides of the building are 8' long and are set in the ground 18" below the level of the floor.

The top of the side posts is 6½' above the floor level. Stringers 4' × 4' × 20' are nailed on top of the side posts.



For the center row, use 4 × 4 posts that are 10' long. These too, are set in the soil 18" below the floor level. The posts are tamped firmly.

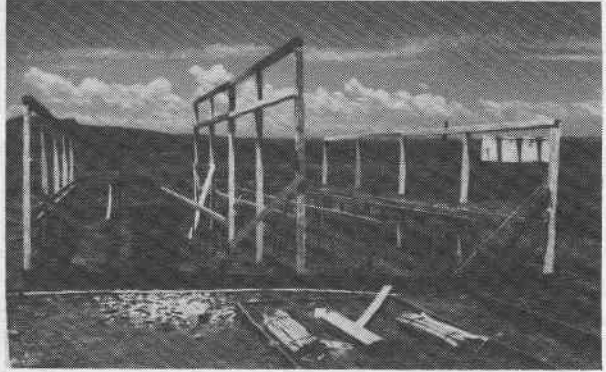
NOTE: Before the center posts are set in place, notches 1¼" × 3¾" are cut in one side of each post. The notch is down 18" below the top-end of the posts. When the posts are set in place the notches should face south.

Two rows of 4 × 4 stringers are nailed to the center posts.

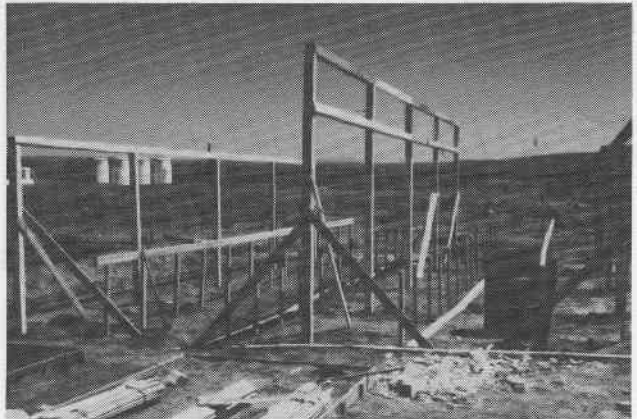
One row is nailed on top of the posts.

One row is nailed 18" below the top.

Before the 2nd row of stringers is nailed to the posts, notch one side of the stringers to match the notches made on the posts. Match the notches to fit into each other and nail securely.



Trays containing seedling plants should *never* be set on the ground. Therefore, tables with flat, level tops, are a vital part of a successful greenhouse operation.



Tables 30" high × 36" wide running the full length of the building are made along the side walls. And one table 30" high × 72" wide is made down the center. The aisles between the tables are 3½' wide. (If your seedling greenhouse is smaller, you may skip the center table.)

