

DIY project

Jane Wrigglesworth

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Make your own strawberry HOUSE

Keep those pesky birds off
your strawberry plants with
this Victorian-style cloche

Materials

You will need: • 10 x 385mm x 45mm x 20mm lengths of tanalised pine • 10 x 300mm x 45mm x 20mm lengths of tanalised pine • 4 x 270mm x 30mm x 20mm lengths of tanalised pine • 1 x 65mm x 65mm x 20mm block of tanalised pine • 20 x 65mm screws • 12 x 45mm screws • 8 x 40mm screws • 15mm zinc plated netting staples • finial • pencil • drill press (or electric drill) • clamp • wood glue • sandpaper • protractor • saw • chicken wire • wire cutters • filler • primer/undercoat and paint

Helpful hints

- For a decorative finish, we chose to build our roof so it sits slightly in from the edges. If you prefer yours to sit flush with the sides, add 40mm to two of the 385mm lengths and 20mm to the 270mm lengths.
- If using a metal finial, coat it first with a rust-preventive paint, such as Resene Rust-Arrest.

step-by-step



1
Make up the bottom frame. With a pencil, mark 20mm in from each end on the side edges of the 385mm lengths of wood.



2
Drill a hole, where marked, right through the piece of wood, using a 4.5mm drill bit. Sand to smooth away any rough edges.



3
Glue bottom edge of one 300mm length. Place at right angles to a 385mm length and clamp. Screw into pre-drilled hole.



4
Repeat for the other side, completing one side of the square frame. Make four more sides. Add filler to screw holes. Paint.



5
Cut chicken wire to fit four of the sides and staple a piece to each one. Paint the other side. Put aside the fifth frame.



6
Using a protractor, mark a 60° angle on one edge of each of the 270mm lengths of wood. Mark opposite edge at 30°. Cut.



7
Screw tops (30° angle) of the four 270mm lengths to the 65mm block. Screw bottom end to fifth side. Line roof with wire.



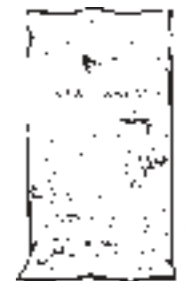
8
Drill pilot holes into remaining side pieces then screw together to form a box. Screw rooftop into place, then attach the finial.

PHOTOS: SEAN SHADBOLT, JANE WRIGGLESWORTH

“Home grown berries”



WENDY,
TEAM MEMBER



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30L
Strawberry Mix
SKU00298331
\$1148



TUI
1.5kg
Strawberry Food
SKU00230885
\$763



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50mm hole.
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