

Chelan /Douglas Counties WA Master Gardeners, Third Saturday at the CEG class, July 16, 2022

## Building a Cold Frame with an Old Window

Master Gardener Connie Mehmel demonstrated this project:

I built this cold frame with an old window. I used 1 by 6 inch boards for the back and sides, 1 by 4s for the front. It's held together with 2-inch deck screws.

Most boards labeled 1 by 6 or 1 by 4 are not actually one inch thick. The fresh logs were cut to one inch thickness, but they shrink to 13/16 when they dry. However, at Lowe's I found cedar boards that were fresh cut to a 5/4 thickness, so when they dried they were truly 1 inch thick.

I started by cutting two boards for the back using the 1x6. First I measured the width of the window, just over 33 inches. A 33-inch back width centered in the window frame. Then I cut two front boards using the 1x4.

Then I measured the depth of the window, 27 ½ inches. Then I had to do a little math. The side boards need to go in between the front and back boards, so I needed to subtract the thickness of those boards. Since these are truly 1 inch thick I subtracted 2 inches from the depth. That means I cut the side boards 25 ½ inches. I cut two 1x6 side boards for each side, a total of 4.

Now I have all the basic cuts, and I can start attaching the boards.

Line up the back corners, drill pilot holes and put the screws in. Move on to the front, using the 1x4s.

Notice the front top piece is extending past the other boards because that's where the angled side piece is going to attach.

I set the side pieces in place to mark where the angle is going to come to on the front. I use the straight edge of another board to mark the angle. Now I have to cut the angled side pieces. A table saw works best for this but since I don't have one I had to clamp it down to a saw horse and use a circular saw. This is awkward but you can do it.

I finished screwing in the side pieces and now you can see that the front corners of the boards are offset so they're interconnected. The back pieces are not interconnected so I used the scrap from the angle cuts on the inside corners to connect them.

I cut the scrap pieces to fit and secured them to the sides and back with two-inch screws.

Check out Youtube, How to Build a Cold Frame Using Old Windows, March 14, 2021, *Some Room to Grow*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNIJmh\\_xQFw&t=4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNIJmh_xQFw&t=4s)