

Home Shade House

Keith Nelson has shared with us how he turned an unused wooden swing set into a shade house for his orchids.



Take one unused wood frame swing set. Cover it with lattice. This swing set is facing west. I covered the west and south facing sides. A tree on the north side provides shade.



Cover the lattice with shade cloth. At first I thought the shade cloth might be too heavy, but after seeing the intense afternoon sun think it is appropriate.



Install a heavy-duty pipe to hold plants. The rings on the top bar which used to hold swings are perfect for hanging plants.



The shade house with plants installed. The shelf on the frame was used for smaller plants in secure trays.



Left: I use moth balls to repel rodents. Last year I also put moth balls around my outdoor orchid area and had no problems with rodents. Remember to put some around the legs of any tables or supports that touch the ground. Right: Close up of a happily growing cattleya. Almost all my outside plants are mature cattleyas as well as a few dendrobiums.

