



**"Zip House"** is a tunnel-shaped, double-layered thermal plastic barrier with plastic ribs that force the sides apart. Drawstring-type closure at top allows plastic to be closed on cold nights, or opened wide for ventilation on warm days.

## Over-The-Row Greenhouse Gives Gardens A Head Start

If your tomatoes or other favorite garden vegetables were a little slow getting started this year, you might try a "Zip House" over-the-row greenhouse next year.

Temple Products of McGehee, Arkansas, describes its Zip House as a tunnel-shaped, double-layered thermal plastic barrier with plastic ribs to force the sides apart. When laid out over a row of plants, it creates a row-sized greenhouse.

The mini greenhouse is sold in 500-ft. rolls for commercial use. For home gardeners, Temple Products packages the product in 25-ft. lengths.

It allows plants to be set out 2 to 6 weeks

earlier, while protecting them from frost and wind. A drawstring-type closure at the top allows the plastic to be closed on cold nights, or opened wide for ventilation on warm days.

Zip House takes only minutes to set up and it's reusable for two or three seasons.

Zip House is available direct from the company or through dealers. A version for home gardeners, called Early Grow, is sold in 25-ft. lengths for \$30 at Lowe Home Improvement Centers.

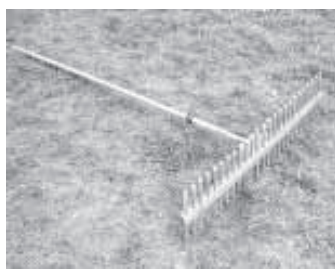
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Temple Products, Box 89, McGehee, Arkansas 71654 (ph 870 222-4022; E-mail: sales@earlygrow.com; Website: www.earlygrow.com).

## Made-It-Myself Rake

Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va., wanted a wider rake than what he could buy at stores for cleaning up large flat areas, so he decided to make his own.

"It's 38 in. wide and consists of a series of 1/2-in. dia. dowels spaced 1 1/2 in. on center. They extend through a cross piece that's 1 1/2 in. square and reinforced at the center, where the handle attaches. Each end of the rake head is anchored by a piece of copper wire. The wire is held in place on the handle by a hose clamp so it can't slide down.

"One side of each dowel is filed down at a 45° angle."



**Rake is 38 in. wide and consists of a series of 1/2-in. dia. dowels spaced 1 1/2 in. apart.**

## Simple Mosquito-Killing Idea

Here's an idea that's been floating around the internet over the past few months. We have not had a chance to try it. If you give it a shot, please let us know whether or not it works.

According to some guru on the web, "Put a layer of water on a white dinner plate and

add just a couple drops of Lemon Fresh Joy dishwashing soap. Set the plate on a porch or patio. Not sure what attracts them - the lemon smell, the white color, or what - but mosquitoes flock to it and drop dead or fall into the water, or on the floor within 10 ft. of the plate. Works just super."

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## Perches Encourage Hawks To Control Rodents In Crops

Like most committed no-tillers, farmer and consultant Jim Kinsella has been scratching his head for years over critter problems.

Rodents - mostly voles and field mice, but also ground squirrels and other little seed-stealing varmints - are quick to find seed in a freshly planted field.

Kinsella tried gassing ground squirrels by blowing carbon monoxide or anhydrous ammonia into their burrows. When that didn't work, he tried poisons, but even those weren't all that successful.

Then one day, he was watching a hawk sitting in a tree in his backyard. When the hawk swooped down and came up with a ground squirrel in its talons, Kinsella realized that the answer to his rodent problem had been there all along. "I figured if I could encourage predators to roost along the field edges, they'd take care of the rodents for me," he says.

To encourage hawks, he constructed perches and placed them along fields about every quarter mile, except where there are power poles or trees where hawks can sit.

Kinsella makes his hawk perches by setting a 2-ft. length of 2 1/2-in. PVC pipe in the ground. Then he drops a 10-ft. length of 2-in. PVC pipe inside the larger ground pipe, with a 3-ft. long wood perch at the top of it. "We made the first perches out of some old 1-1/2 in. round closet poles we had on hand," he says. He now buys the rod in 10-ft. lengths and cuts each piece into three equal lengths.

He's also installed some perches on wooden corner posts. He makes these from pieces of treated 2 by 2's.

"You could use PVC pipe for the cross pieces if you cover them with something like duct tape so it provides a surface the hawk can hold onto," he says.



**Hawk perch consists of a 10-ft. length of 2-in. PVC pipe inside a larger ground pipe, with a 3-ft. long wood perch at the top.**

"So far, the hawk stands are the most effective and economic rodent control we've found," he says. However, this year there are fewer hawks using the stands than in previous years. He says since there are cycles in nature and hawks tend to go where the hunting is best, there may still be times when the perches won't solve your rodent problems.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Kinsella, Kinsella Farms, Inc., 20984 Clarksville Rd., Lexington, Ill. 61753-9802 (ph 309 365-8041; E-mail: kfi@dtm.speed.net).

## "Stand-Back" Campfire Log Tongs

Dave Kindig, Roanoke, Ill., solved the problem by building a set of log tongs that allow him to stand back away from the fire.

"I use it to throw in firewood whenever our family is camping out and burning wood. When the fire starts falling apart, I can reach in and pick up the burning logs and throw them closer to the fire without worrying about burning my hands," he says, noting that you could also use them to stoke a wood stove.

The tongs consist of a 4-ft. long, 3/8-in. dia. steel pipe with a pair of stationary tongs welded onto the bottom end and a metal guide welded about halfway up. Inside the pipe is a 7/16-in. dia. rod that has a handle on top and a single curved tong welded onto it at the bottom end.

To pick up a log, Kindig holds the guide with his left hand and twists the handle clockwise with his right hand, which rotates the single tong sideways toward the two stationary tongs.

"I can use it to pick up logs from 10 inches in diameter all the way down to 1-in. dia. sticks. So even if the logs burn down small, the tongs still can pick them up," says Kindig. "It works better than conventional log tongs that work like a big scissors. The problem with them is that you have to practically stand over the campfire, whereas I can stand well away from the flames and smoke.

"It doesn't take a lot of pressure to clamp the log, because the single tong is rounded



**To pick up a log, Kindig twists the handle clockwise with his right hand, which rotates a single tong sideways toward two stationary tongs.**

which allows it to pinch in and get under the log."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Kindig, 1367 State Route 116, Roanoke, Ill. 61561 (ph 309 367-9328).