

HOMEGROWN IDEAS



OUTDOOR DEHYDRATOR A simple idea using a cold frame set on blocks for air circulation. We took the plastic off the top & added a hinged top. It has landscape or garden fabric for the bottom & wire on top. Instead of the wire, to keep the rain out, we are going to try corrugated opaque plastic on top to let the heat in, but the air can flow around the edges. Inside is a removable wire frame that has fabric stapled on the bottom side. In early spring, we can turn this back into a cold frame by removing the center piece.

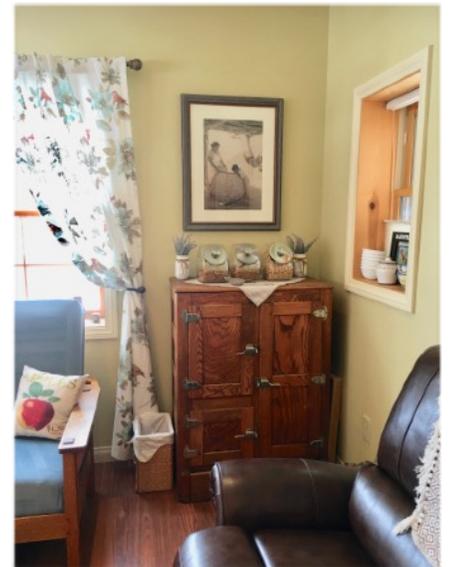


GARDEN SMOOTHIE Don't like composting? If you have a strong blender like a Vitamix, simply blend up your kitchen scraps (no meat) every day and bury in the garden. Dig up some weeds at the same time! Roses love banana peels & egg shells.



WONDER BAG Kitchen too hot in the summer? Want to save fuel? Try heating your slow cooker meal for just 15 min, then let it cook in the insulated Wonder Bag for a few hours. The results are delicious, with no chance of overcooking.

NEED A ROOT CELLAR? How about an antique ice box with reusable ice blocks? Once or twice a day, we exchange the blocks of ice for cold ones, and the temperature stays cool, not cold, perfect for storing potatoes or fruit in shallow boxes (mason jar boxes work great). Even if we forget the ice, the box is insulated. Our ice box had no shelves, but we measured and found some online.



SOLAR OVEN Here in the southwest, it seems crazy NOT to cook with the sun. We would love to hear from anyone who has a simple but sturdy oven blueprint to recommend.

More to come...