



Useful Reusing

How to make a hoop cloche or net support from off-cuts of water pipe.

These structures are excellent for us - very quick and easy to set up and take down, very versatile in adapting to the size and shape of our beds and really easy to store without everything getting tangled up. We mainly use them for the early stages of growing vulnerable plants. We pinched the idea from Geoff Hamilton's garden at Barnsdale near Rutland Water.

To make a cloche, you will need:

2 or more lengths of water pipe offcuts or other strong but curved plastic tubing. Old hoops can work, but they are not as strong as the water pipe.

Several strong bamboo canes

String

Loppers (or a hacksaw)

Fine net (we use scaffold netting, bought in bulk) or strong plastic (we use polytunnel off-cuts).

Something to weigh down the netting or attach it to the edges of the bed.

How To:

1. Decide how high you want your hoops to be, and cut them to size with your loppers.
2. Cut lengths of bamboo thin enough to slide inside the pipe, but as thick as you can get that will still fit. Around 60cm should be long enough. Push these half into the pipe at each end, and the rest into the ground to support the hoop.
3. Repeat for as many sections as needed.
4. Add a top line of bamboo for stability if



needed and tie in place.

5. Measure the netting or plastic and cut to size, allowing for overlap where you will secure the cover.
6. Weigh down or otherwise attach the cover.
7. Now smile at the frustrated pigeons!

