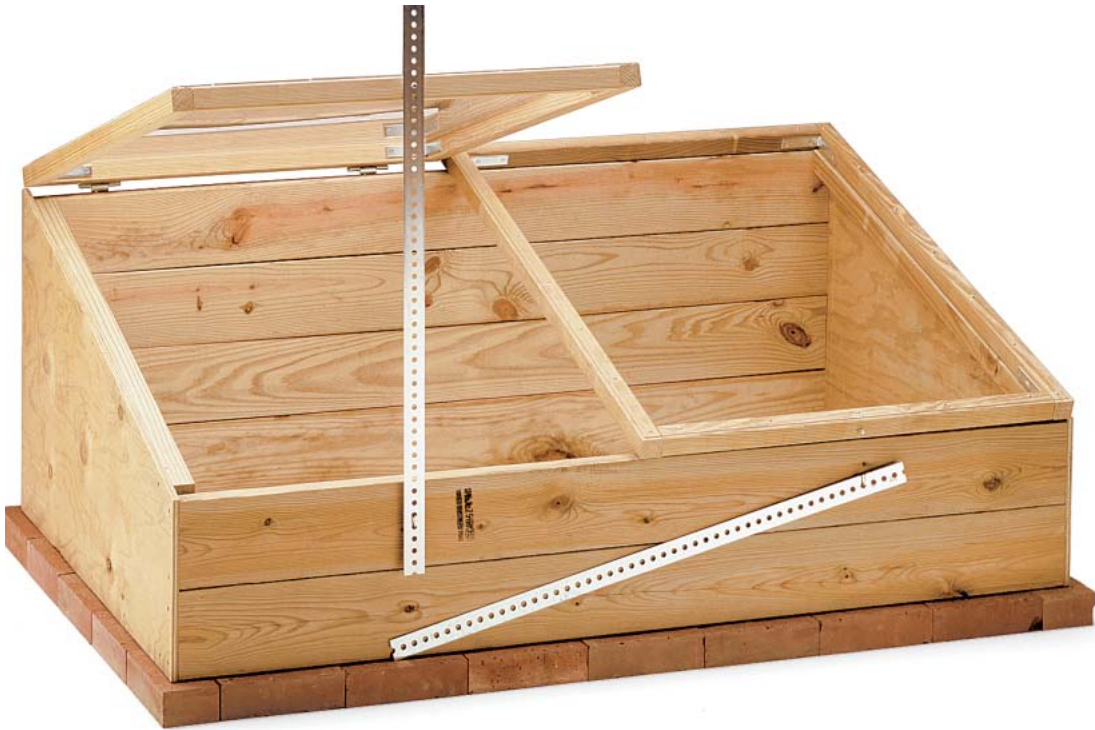


Garden Cold Frame



Cold frames are a great way to get an early start on gardening in a cold climate. They work like a giant cloche, warming up a particular area in your garden so you can plant seedlings long before spring arrives. With enough insulation, some cold frames can be nearly as warm as a greenhouse, especially if you locate them near the wall of a heated building or

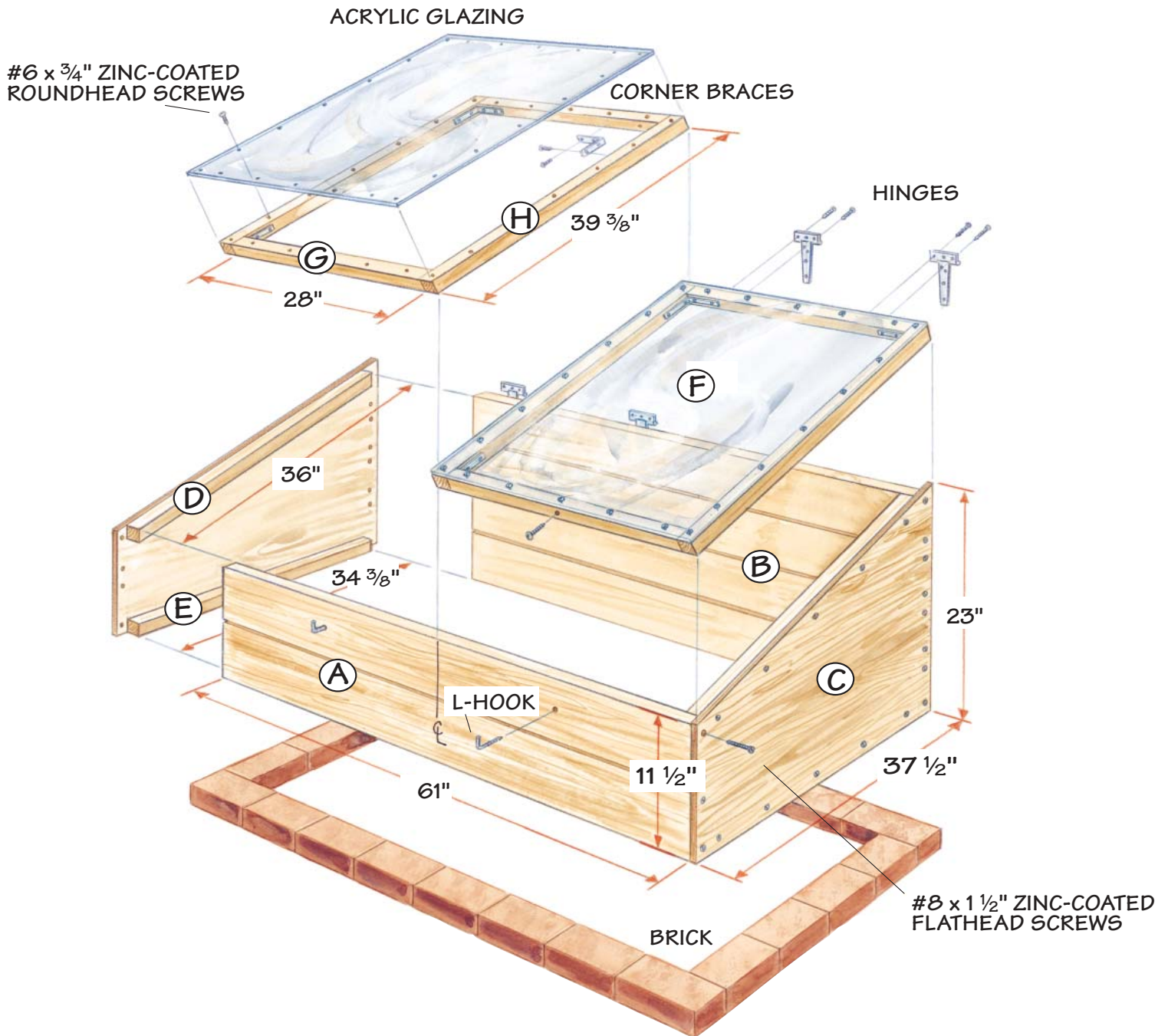
use heating coils and manure to warm the soil. In mild areas, you can even grow cool-season vegetables all winter long.

On the following page we've included a simple design for a cold frame that can be built with materials found at your local home center. We used Plexiglass for the windows, but you can easily substitute heavy plastic or even use old win-

dows instead. To hold the lid open, we used a 36" strip of perforated metal that rotates on a simple L-hook attached to the front of the frame, see photo above. After you've built the cold frame and moved it to your garden, give it seven to 10 days to warm up the soil. Then bring out your seedling flats or simply plant your crop directly into the frame.

COLD FRAME TIPS

- Orient the frame so it runs east to west so more sun will reach growing plants.
- Make the frame lower on the south side so it catches more sun.
- Paint the inside of the frame white to help reflect sunlight to the plants.
- Vent the cold frame to keep it from getting too hot (over 80 degrees) or too humid, which encourages foliage disease.
- Keep an eye out for unwanted air leaks where warm air can seep out.
- Irrigate with water that's at least as warm as the soil. Cold water will cool the soil and reduce the effectiveness of the cold frame. (And it can chill the seedlings.)
- On extra-cold nights, place small candles inside the frame. Be careful to keep them away from anything combustible.



MATERIALS

Lumber/Plywood (use exterior grade)

A	Front	2 x 6 x 61	(2)
B	Back	2 x 6 x 61	(4)
C	Sides	1/2" plywood cut to size	(2)
D	Side rail top	2 x 2 x 36	(2)
E	Side rail bottom	2 x 2 x 34 3/8	(2)
F	Lid - acrylic glazing	cut to size	(2)
G	Lid frame	2 x 2 x 28	(4)
H	Lid frame	2 x 2 x 39 3/8	(4)

Materials/Hardware

Acrylic glazing	cut to size
#6 x 3/4 roundhead screws	(zinc coated)
#8 x 1 1/2 flathead screws	(zinc coated)
T-hinges, 5"	with screws (4)
Corner braces, 3"	with screws (8)
L-hooks	(2)
Perforated metal strap	3' (2)
Bricks	(32)