

Mini-Keyhole Kitchen Garden Kit



**WATCH FOR
SHARP EDGES**
on tubing and
**ESPECIALLY ON
INNER BASKET
MESH.**

**PLEASE
NOTE:**
A VIDEO
HAS BEEN
LAUNCHED
ON OUR
WEBSITE
KEYHOLEFARM.COM
THAT OFFERS
THE EASY WAY
TO CONSTRUCT
THE REGULAR
SIZE KEYHOLE
GARDEN FRAME.

IT IS UNDER
THE MENU
ITEM "EXTRAS"
IN THE UPPER
RIGHT-HAND
CORNER AREA.

SOME OF THIS
INFO MIGHT BE
HELPFUL FOR
MINI-KEYHOLES
AS WELL.

Exercise caution when loosening the roll of mesh, as it could spring open suddenly.

You might want to handle the wire mesh wearing leather or cloth gloves.



KeyholeFarm.com Mini-Keyhole Kitchen Garden Instructions

Construction of the mini-keyhole kitchen garden normally takes the Keyhole Farm staff about 30-45 minutes.

Construction is done in three phases: the frame, the panels, and the interior basket.

BE CAREFUL

Safety precautions should be taken when using tools, especially power tools. There are sharp edges on the interior basket, so please exercise caution when handling it.

T POWER DRIVER (required)
O PADDED MALLET (required)
O Level (optional)
O Leather or Cloth Gloves (optional)
L Shears or Scissors (optional)
S Small Drill Bit (optional), included



6 Panels For Sides

THIS KIT CONTAINS:



10 Curves For Frame



5 Vertical Supports with Tees attached.



Wire Mesh For Internal Basket



60 Polyester Ties
 35 Screws
 (a few extra included)
 3/32 Drill Bit In Bag of Screws



3 Rings

These instructions are based upon the techniques Keyholefarm.com utilizes to put the kit together. There are probably variations of these instructions that will work fine, too.

The dimensions of the finished product should fall in the ballpark of being: a 42-inch diameter across the top (circle), the internal basket should have a diameter of approximately 8 inches, and the fill content of the garden should comprise approximately .81 cu. yds.

THE FRAME



These components and tools are used in the frame:

- 5 vertical supports, 10 curved tubes, screws.
- Power drill, padded mallet, small drill bit (optional).

The frame goes on the exterior of the garden, holding it all together. It can be put together on a table (if large enough), on a floor or the ground, or both. It can be constructed indoors if there is a 22" clearance in the doorway to roll it outside.



1. You will be inserting the curved tubes into the open ends of the tees. Please note that the side of the vertical supports that will be to the OUTSIDE is the side with the holes drilled in it.



2. When inserting the tubing, it is a tight fit and can be accomplished by wiggling the curved piece while putting pressure on it, or by rotating the curved piece around or back and forth while pushing it into the slot. A mallet can be used to hammer it in if needed.



3. The curved piece when inserted all the way goes one-inch into the tee. Three-quarters of an inch is acceptable. If you are unsure of how far you are inserting the curve, you might want to place a pencil mark at the three-quarters of an inch distance by measuring the ends of the curve. It is best to get it in as far as possible.



7. Installing the final curved piece is usually the hardest. Tapping can be done where the Tee meets the vertical support. During this process, it is likely that some curves will come loose, so you might have to tap these in again, putting pressure on the curves to keep them in place.



8. The final step is driving in the screws.

We usually stand the frame on its end so we are pushing down to drill and can assure a perpendicular position. Look at the frame to be sure the joints have remained in place.



4. Insert the curved tubes on one side of the vertical supports, creating a circular form. Place it on the floor and put pressure on the circular tubes and press down on the supports to make it flat.



5. Bring the vertical supports to an approximate vertical position and proceed to work your way around the top, putting in the curved tubing. Here, you might need to utilize the mallet when the second half of the curved piece is put in.



6. The hammering does not need to be real hard, numerous taps to get it to move. If you don't have a mallet, a padded hammer or a piece of board might work.

11. Put a screw into the Phillips head bit on the power driver and position over a pre-drilled hole in the Tee. They tend to go in easier by putting light pressure on the drill at first, then put considerable pressure on the drill for the tap screw to drill into the metal. Faster drills tend to work better. If after several seconds the screw won't go in, try using a new screw (extras are provided). Sometimes residue sticks to the screw tip. You can also use a 3/32" drill bit (one is in the bag of screws) to drill a starter hole and then put the screw in. The screw has to go into metal. Be very careful doing this, as it is easy for the drill to slip, so don't have a hand in harm's way. This should not happen if you are drilling straight.

12. Continue to work your way around, right and left Tees, until you are complete. It's ready to go!

TIP: After the frame is completed, it might be a good time to take it outside and use it as a guide for measuring level ground. Just place it on the intended site, put a board across it and a level on the board so you will know where to dig out if placed on a slope. This can be done when the whole garden is completed, but it is sometimes easier to do with just the frame since you can easily access both sides in digging.

THE PANELS

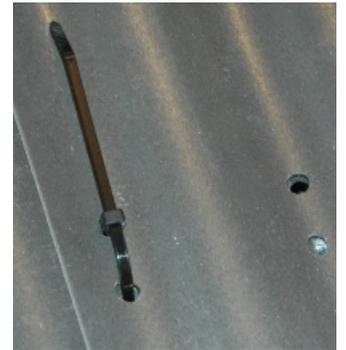
This phase involves putting the panels onto the frame. If you want to do it indoors, first measure the panels to assure that they will fit through the doorway when rolled outside.

We usually lift the frame onto a table and place it on its side (as to roll it) and then work from both sides, rotating it as we go. If you do it outside in a finished position, you will need to put some bricks along the base of the frame since it sits up higher than the panels that will touch the ground. The remainder of this instruction sheet deals with vertical installation, but both are similar.



1. Place two panels on the bottom inside the frame and overlap the panel ridges by two ridges. Please note that on one side of the panels near the bottom is marked an arrow. This denotes the interior bottom of the garden, so these arrows need to all go on the same side (see above image).

2. Place one tie on each side of an overlap, loosely (image on right). Please note that on the "buckle" of the ties, where the loose end feeds, one side is wider than the other. Put the loose end through the wider side of the tie connector. Also, the tie should be inserted from the interior, go through two holes (two pieces of panel), AROUND THE METAL FRAME, the up through two holes back to the interior.



3. Now, add another panel and work your way around, just putting one tie on each side. We are wanting to get all the panels in place prior to adding additional ties and tightening them. All the panels except the last will have a two groove overlap. The final panel will overlap only once on the two places it connects. When we get to the last panel, we rotate the garden so that it is on the bottom, to keep the top unattached portions from flopping down.



4. Once it is loosely in place, add the missing ties, going around the metal curves on the edges and not around the metal curves in the middle. There is no need to add a tie where there is not an overlap of panels in the middle, where there are eight holes that will not have ties through them.

5. Next, tighten the ties, pulling up on them and rotating them around to get another bite. You want them very tight.

6. A final step (optional) is to cut access tie material. You might leave a little bit since repositioning the garden into its final position sometimes reveals ties that could be a little tighter. The main garden should now be ready to go.



CONSTRUCTING THE INNER BASKET

The inner basket, or the “keyhole,” is used to recycle table scraps and other materials that will decompose and “feed” the garden with nutrients and moisture. Traditionally, this basket should sit in the middle of the garden for maximum effect, but can be positioned elsewhere if necessary.

The basket will sit up higher than the garden itself. The garden measures approximately 27-29 inches in height and the basket is approx. 36 inches tall, allowing “mounding” toward the basket if wished.

This metal mesh contains very sharp edges, so utilize caution when disconnecting the wires holding it in its cylinder shape or cutting the tape around it (depending on how it is packaged), for it will spring loose some.

The use of leather or cloth gloves is recommended because of the sharp edges (although we seldom use them).

1. Separate the two edges of the cylinder of mesh (be careful), spreading apart. Traditional keyholes utilize a one-foot diameter opening, but since this garden is smaller and to consume less space, this kit includes three approximately 8-8 ½ -inch diameter rings.



2. Shape the cylinder approximately 8 inches in diameter and go to one end and place the ring inside, putting a zip tie one notch down from the edge (not on the top edge).



3. Once you have about three or four zip ties on the non-overlapped areas, add one or two through the areas that overlap, pulling tightly the mesh as you go. Then do the same thing to the opposite side of the cage. Next, put a ring in the middle and zip tie it the same way.

4. When you are satisfied that all the ties are pulled tight, cut the ties just beyond the buckle.



5. Now along the length of the cylinder, find the overlap edges both inside and out and bend the sharp points around nearby mesh edges to secure the sides, trying to put them parallel with other wires.

6. Lastly, bend and mash the top and bottom edges down over the wire circles toward the middle.



7. The basket can now be placed in the garden. When you are filling the garden, be sure that the basket remains upright and where you want it during the process of putting in wetted-down boxes, paper, leaves, twigs, etc. as you layer the garden, putting topsoil and a compost mix (our recommendation) on the upper level.

A Few Tips

The level of content in your keyhole garden will likely drop during each growing season as material in the lower levels decomposes, so be prepared to refill some as the season progresses.

Offentimes, plants will vine over the edge of the keyhole gardens. We inspect plants that are doing this and sometimes put padded material on the top edge of the garden rim just below the plant overlap.

With our kits, if you do multiples, leave enough space around them to allow the passage of riding mowers if that's what you use to mow. Also plan on plants overriding the gardens, so space will need to be left for this, too. If you weed-eat next to your garden, use a slower speed so as not to etch the finish on the keyhole's side.

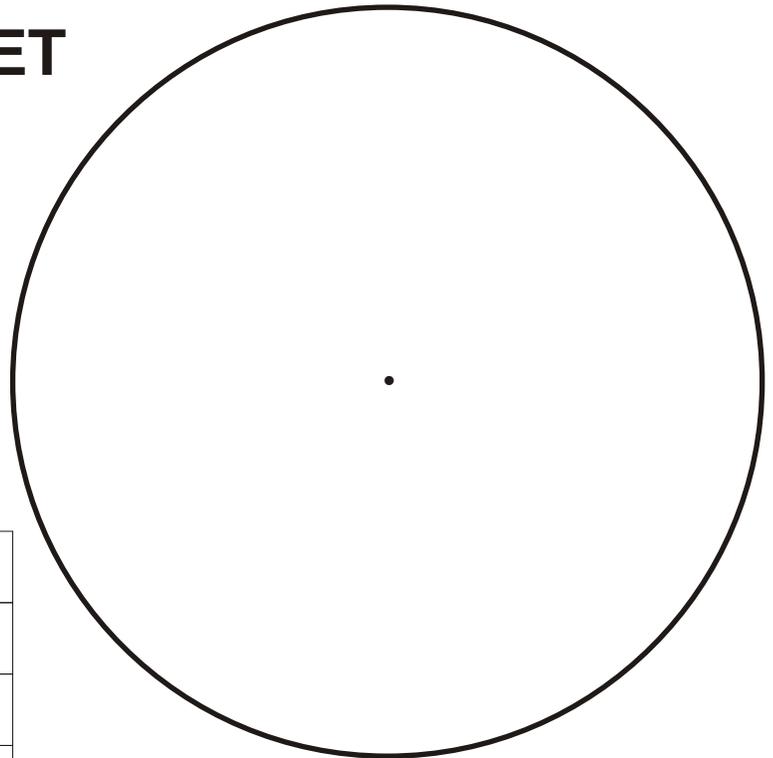
One good source for how to fill a keyhole garden is located at: <<http://www.texascoopower.com/texas-stories/nature-outdoors/keyhole-gardening>>

PLANTING WORKSHEET

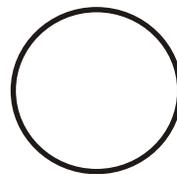
INSTRUCTIONS:

The big circle to the right is your garden, minus the keyhole interior basket. Inside the garden where your internal basket is located, draw a circle the approximate size of the lower smaller circle.

On the numbered blanks below fill in the name of a crop. Then section off the circle at right and insert the number applicable to a crop in that area. Use a pencil in case you need to erase.



Crop	Planting Date
01.	
02.	
03.	
04.	
05.	
06.	
07.	
08.	
09.	
10.	
11.	
12.	



Keyhole Name or #:

Crop	Planting Date
13.	
14.	
15.	
16.	
17.	

If you have any questions not answered in these instructions, please e-mail us at smith@keyholefarm.com and we will attempt to help. Here's wishing you the best of luck with your garden!