



**November**  
 Last Quarter 1  
 New Moon 9  
 First Quarter 17  
 Full Moon 24  
 Day's Length  
 10h 51m-10h 12m

# Straw-Bale Cold Frame

Building made simple

A straw-bale cold frame is a convenient way to protect tall-growing cool- and cold-season crops like leeks, kale, Brussels sprouts, collards, and celery. I create a solid wall of straw around the crop bed, covering it at the top with a sheet of 4- or 6-mil clear plastic. A frame for the plastic helps prevent snow, frost, or water from pooling.

In spring, remove the south facing side to create a U-shaped structure. Pull and compost any remaining plant stubs and work a 2-inch layer of compost or aged manure into the soil. Sprinkle some seed for hardy greens-spinach, arugula, Swiss chard, lettuce- then water and re-cover the bed. Water often and vent the bed on warm days. In just over a month, you'll be harvesting the first salad of the season.



When it's time to take apart the structure, you have an abundant source of organic mulch. I use the straw to keep down weeds in pathways, and I leave a bale beside my compost bin as a good source of carbon.

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
Daylight Savings Ends 1	2	Election Day 3	4	5	6	7
8	9	U.S. Marine Corps Birthday 10	Veterans Day 11 Display Flag	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18 	19 	20	21
22	23	Beaver Supermoon 24	25	Thanksgiving Day 26 	27 	28
29	30					