

wire fencing that has been rolled up, the cut sections will be arched just about the right amount for covering a bed.

Each of my sections is 32 inches wide, but yours could be wider if you need to cover a wider row or bed. I just push the wire ends into the sides of the bed to hold the frame in place. To cover the frame, I cut heavy-duty, clear plastic strips the length of the frame, then secure them with clothespins to the bottom third of the frame on either side. The middle third of the frame (the top) is covered with nylon netting.

This dual covering protects my plants from wind, frost and birds, but doesn't heat up so much that it cooks plants if the weather turns hot.

By planting my entire garden this way last February, I had healthy, established corn, tomatoes, okra, beans, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, chard and herbs before some friends even got theirs started. When the plants reached the tops of their cloches, I just removed the coverings and gently lifted out the frames.

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### CLOCHE ENCOUNTERS

Our unpredictable weather, strong winds and loose, sandy soil present a real challenge for gardeners. One technique that I've found useful is covering my raised rows with a field-fence cloche. If you cut

