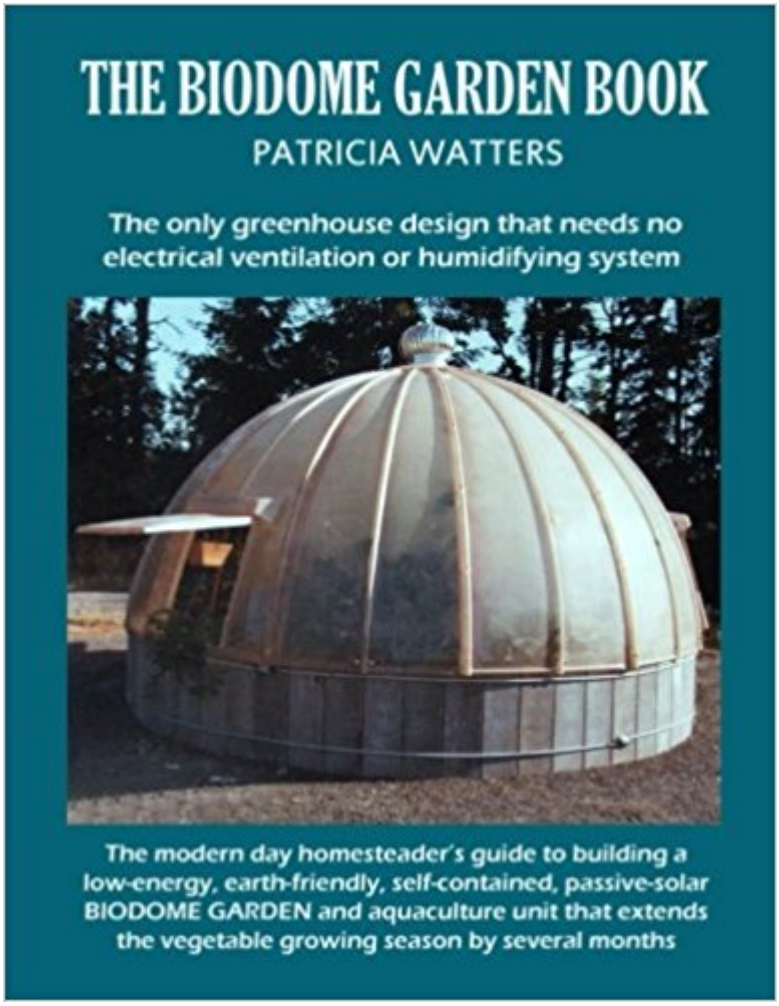
The Biodome Garden Book: The Only Greenhouse Design That Needs No Electrical Ventilation Or Humidifying System.



Synopsis

QUOTES FROM THOSE WHO KNOW: THE OPENING OF THE FIRST BIODOME GARDEN IN OTTAWA - AUGUST 27, 2014 "On August 17, 2014 the Brewer Park Community Garden (BPCG), situated across from Brewer Arena, celebrated the grand opening of Ottawa's first Biodome Garden project. To commemorate the day, the Park hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony along with an afternoon of events, including a barbecue and tours of the Biodome and gardens. When asked about the inspiration for the Biodome Garden, Oster credited the ever-enduring spirit of his co-project leader, Guy Souliere and the pages of Patricia Watters' book The Biodome Garden Book. "The completion of the Biodome Garden marks an historic moment for Ottawa. The project is the first structure of its kind in Eastern Canada, making it an exciting achievement that sets a high standard and precedence for future similar structures to be built in the Region. As explained by those involved in the project, "Since its inception, the Biodome Garden has appreciated informal collaboration with both Carleton University and Algonquin College. The energy systems for air movement, fluid pumping and temperature modulation of the Biodome Garden form the thesis topic of a Carleton Masters Candidate, Paula Claudino. Recognizing that both Carleton and Algonquin value community collaboration and real-world research opportunities, the Biodome Garden is hoping to attract more formal partnerships with one or both partners." It is the hope of the Brewer Park Community Garden that this innovative project will be replicated many times in several different forms across the City and Ottawa Region. Its replication could shape the beginning of a much more healthy and sustainable food culture across Ottawa." --SPACING MAGAZINE "Even before the advent of biodomes, experimentation had already begun with domed enclosures that could sustain year-round gardens. At the forefront was Patricia Watters, author of the "The Biodome Garden Book," the premier book on passive-solar biodome greenhouse gardening. When Watters constructed her first biodome garden 30 years ago, even the most forward-thinking gardening communities hadn't conceived of a solar-powered, weed- and pesticide-free, waist-level greenhouse capable of producing its own food (in the form of aquatic animals), which could, in turn, feed organically grown vegetables using minimal water." (WHOLE LIFE TIMES MAGAZINE) "May as well start off with the most comprehensive food production system that I have ever come across. A wonderful lady named Patricia Watters has written a book on how to construct a system that not only produces produce, but also fish, (a great protein source) in an environment that does not require sprays or the traditional heating and electrical expenses associated with green house systems. The dome itself should fit into most back yards." (GEOFF LAWTON - PERMACULTURE INNOVATOR) FOR PHOTOS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIODOME GARDEN PLEASE

GO TO: biodomegarden.com

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Patricia Watters is committed to energy conservation and wholesome lifestyles. Log homes and solar greenhouses are complimentary to her philosophy of life. Her objective in creating THE BIODOME GARDEN BOOK and WAIST-LEVEL GARDENING (also on), and passing on the information so that others can benefit from her research, is an effort to help others enjoy a healthful, environmentally-friendly way of life. Ms. Watters became involved in creating an effective passive solar greenhouse system in 1982 while pursuing an interest in growing vegetables year-around that would use a minimum of water. Subsequently, she developed her Biodome Garden, which includes a 900-gallon aquaculture system for heat absorption, radiation, and humidification. Ms. Watters lives with her husband in a hand-built log house in the woods of Oregon. Their only source of water is rain water, which is collected off the roof and flows into an 8000-gallon under-ground cistern. She invites you to visit her website at www.biodomegarden.com to learn more about the book, and to view full-color photographs of her Biodome garden.

I was very excited about getting the Biodome Garden Book. If you buy this be sure to buy the one for $9.95 version as opposed to the one for$19.95) But after having gone through the book several times I am left with many questions and concerns. This book is great for ideas about using water, stone, concrete, and a fiberglass dome to create a space for growing plants and aquatic life. The

book assumes that you have solid skills in carpentry, plumbing, excavating, large aquarium management and construction design skills. The author gives the big picture and some details but leaves you or a professional to fill in many gaps and most of the details. I found most of the essential design layouts and photos to be too small and or poor quality. Half of the book is dedicated to organic gardening and to creating a 900 gallon aquarium, also information is redundant. So about half or so of the book addresses what is involved with actual building the Biodome.The basic crux of this book is to share the idea of creating an approximately 200 square foot, 18.5’ high dome greenhouse incorporating raised beds, a partial aquaponics/hydroponic system, compost bin, a worm bin, and a sink, freeaing pipes etc.The Biodome design discussed in the book is basically building the top of a concrete and fiberglass silo on the ground, with a 900 gallon fish tank in the center. The walls of the Biodome which also serve as the walls of the raised bed and the walls of the fish tank are made of concrete silo staves which have a cable with tension that runs around the outside of these staves to secure them. The water, concrete and other stone, absorb heat during the day and release it night and during cold weather helping to stabilize temperature and humidity.The perimeter of the Biodome is a 2.5’ high raised bed. The fish tank is a 5’ high 6’ diameter tanks that will hold over 1,000 gallons of water.The top of the Biodome is a fiberglass dome intended for a silo. There are openings in the bottom of this dome and a wind turbine at the top for airflow and to regulate temperature. The author seems to live in a very temperate part of Oregon. So if you experience extremely cold, snowy, humid and hot, weather you may experience limitations on growing season, and possibly problems with fish tank.These are the questions I would like answered:1. There is no mention of putting in a door or how to get in and out! I assume you are supposed to crawl through the ventilation window over a planting bed, or compost pile, or worm bed, or the sink??2. The cover of the book states no electrical ventilation or humidifying system is needed, but the fish tank does need an electric pump, and no mention is made of running electricity to the Biodome or using solar panels.3. The fish tank is made water proof by plastering with concrete. On other aquaponics and fish enthusiast forums, they mention needing to coat concrete with epoxy, pond liners, etc, in order for the concrete not to leach contaminants into the water which are possibly bad for the fish and will cause the pH to become more alkaline.4. No mention is made of the approximate cost or amounts of materials needed for building a Biodome assuming you have the carpentry, plumbing, and excavating skills and equipment to do it all yourself. The concrete silo staves are heavy and would be very expensive to ship, if you do not have local access. the websites provided to get concrete silo staves do not provide any prices, you need to call and to get price and shipping quotes.) Also no idea of how

many are needed, I guess a sales person could help you determine, but should have been included. The websites for domes include sites that want to sell you geodesic dome greenhouses for 4-6+ thousand dollars. One website suggested wants to charge you about $50 for information on how to build your own geodesic dome, greenhouse. The reviews I read about this info was that it was very basic information freely available on web with links to poor quality videos. There is one link to fiberglass silo dome manufacturer as used in the book, but again need to call and get price and shipping costs. So no idea if building this Biodome would actually save me any money than buying a prefab one, and then implementing some of the ideas and principles.5. How much river run rock are needed to fill the grow beds 1'high?6. Where do you get a 50 gallon fiberglass drum for the "Biofilter"? Seems a used food grade 55 gallon poly (plastic)would be much easier and cheaper to find. Recommend a dark one or paint it to reduce algae growth.7. There are no plans on how to construct the cedar trays that are meant to fit inside the drum and hold oyster shells to filter the fish tank water. No mention of how much oyster shell is needed or where to get it or how much it costs.8. There are photos and a small drawing of the cedar trough and hydroponic system that sits on top of the fish tank, but again no plans on how to make it, how much cedar boards to buy etc.9. The book states that you will use concrete silo staves around the whole perimeter of walls of the growing beds, but somehow, you are to leave some out to put in a large sink with enough space under it to grow mushrooms. In a photo it looks like some sort of open concrete square fills this role, but nothing is mentioned in the book.10. How many square feet is the walk way, so that I know how much gravel or pavers to buy? How much gravel is need for the foundation?These are the concerns that I have:1. The planting beds are 3' feet deep, so unless you are tall with long arms it will be difficult to reach the back of the beds.2. The walk way for you to get around in is only 2' wide, so maneuvering with large baskets, buckets, etc will be tight fit. Also really no place to relax or sit, unless you replace the fish tank with a hot tub.3. The hydroponic system that sits on top of the fish tank basically just lets you peer through the slats to see the fish etc. Also it seems to be about 6' across again making it difficult to access the middle of it especially when it is over 5' feet in the air.4. The fish tank is 5' high (therefore 5' deep) has a very heavy wooden hydroponic system filled with pea gravel sitting on top of it(again how much pea gravel is needed? And what type of screening material is recommended for the bottom?) , how are you supposed to monitor what is happening in the this deep and dark tank, harvest fish to eat, share or sell, or to collect sick ones, etc.?5. You will need more PVC pipe for the irrigation line from the fish tank to around the perimeter of the grow beds than is stated in the book (20') it will be closer to 50'. No big deal.6. The author recommends using peat moss as a bedding material for a built in worm bin, which seems at odds with her goals

of sustainability. Would be preferable to add leaves, coconut coir, cardboard, newspaper, etc.7. Seems the windows need to be opened and closed by hand. Greenhouses can heat up very quickly, so if you are not there you could cook your plants. Many greenhouses have windows that have temperature sensitive pistons that open and close the windows automatically without electricity depending on the temperature.8. The book basically leaves it up to you to figure out how to attach the dome to the silo staves.So if I buy a book that on the cover states "A step-by-step guide to building.."I expect to know how much of each component or material is needed and approximate cost to buy and ship.Should state upfront that you need to be an experienced carpenter, plumber, excavator, and aquarium manager or can hire these in order to build and maintain.Should have clear drawings of designs that are large enough to decipher easily, and photographs that are crisp and clear and illustrate everything explicitly.I expect a door with exact design and directions on how to install one! And information on how to leave out silo staves for the sink.Links to high quality videos showing construction would be very helpful.Information on how these Biodomes function in other climates.So some great ideas, but less building specifics than in a good Mother Earth News article on how to build something.

Very disappointed. I thought this would give actual building information. It does give you an inspiring idea, but the majority of people who read it will be left with no practical information. Not to mention the fact that I cringe at the thought of how expensive this would be to actually build. If you are looking for a book to give you step by step instructions, it does not do that. It is not a book for novices, it is a book that gives a good idea to seasoned builders...

I enjoyed this book and have recommended it to others. It presents the information in a clear and readable manner. Good illustrations. The concepts made sense. The author does sell the components through her website if you care to purchase them, but you don’t have to and there’s no hard-sell. The book was reasonably priced and the content was well done. It motivated me to learn more about gardening in general. I will probably never be able to afford to make a system like this, but understanding the principles alone will be helpful in my own gardening. It’s a worthwhile read, and gets you thinking about self-sufficiency.

Lots of good ideas, but the plans are for a much colder climate than the North Florida area where I live. If I ever move to my property in the North Carolina mountains, this will be my first project.

This book was inspiring, and may provide food solutions for many folks. I love the simplicity of how the biodome works without electricity. My husband thinks it’s an ugly structure, but for providing us with food security into our twilight years, it seemed a viable solution.The information provided in the book seems uneven in terms of not providing sufficient how to information in some areas (fish culture) and then delving into detail in less important areas. How to keep the water at optimal temperatures for tilapia or whatever fish are used might be a challenge depending on your climate.After reading this we did more aquaponic research and decided to get away from soil altogether as the veggies grow significantly in an aquaponic system. I haven’t thought about how the biodome might be adapted for aquaponics only system, but it probably would work out.At present we are thinking of building our aquaponic system in our house to improve ease of regulation of fish tank temperature, but still working on issues with that.The biodome is a thought provoking concept and it’s worth a read.

The temperate zones need to start employing passive greenhouse technology if they want to eat fresh food during the Winter in a solar economy. This book is yet another good step forward in that regard. Reviewer Jason Cooper made the good point that this is not a step-by-step for how to build a biodome garden though, in my opinion, it is reasonably close. The more important point is the ideas and technologies that it presents which are stepping stones to your own passive greenhouse. Get the book! Support the author!

I really have enjoyed reading about a new way to become sustainable. It has a great plan for gardening year round in any climate with minimum use of electricity etc. The only thing I had a hard time with is finding replacement for the silo staves. We don’t have silos here in the Appalachians and I think the author must be from a large ranching community where they a re plentiful.

IMHO, worth $10, not $20. Mostly a pamphlet with a glossary of animals. Some general design info, but, very short of construction information. Some construction details, (a few more pages) in her other "book" on the concrete garden, but zero about the dome construction in either book. I think from her website she is planning to sell fiberglass dome kits so this is not a DIY design.

The Biodome Garden Book: The only greenhouse design that needs no electrical ventilation or humidifying system. Greenhouse : Greenhouse for Beginners: The Layman’s Guide to Greenhouse Construction, Plans & Gardening (Greenhouse, Greenhouse for Beginners, Greenhouse ...

Greenhouse Construction, Greenhouse Plans) Greenhouse: Greenhouse Gardening Box Set (Greenhouse, Greenhouse Gardening, Greenhouse Gardening for Beginners, Greenhouse for Dummies, Garden, Gardening) Greenhouse Gardening the Easy Way!: Learn to Greenhouse Garden: What plants grow best, how to use vertical gardening and other methods to create an optimal year round or seasonal greenhouse. Greenhouse Gardening: How to Start a Greenhouse Garden, and Grow Greenhouse Vegetables, Herbs and More! DIY Greenhouse: How to Build a Walk-In, Ventilated Greenhouse Using Wood, Plastic Sheeting & PVC (Greenhouse Plans Series) Principles And Practice of Mechanical Ventilation, Third Edition (Tobin, Principles and Practice of Mechanical Ventilation) Greenhouse Gardening: How to Build and Sustain a Greenhouse Garden The Year-Round Solar Greenhouse: How to Design and Build a Net-Zero Energy Greenhouse Greenhouse Gardening - A Beginners Guide To Growing Fruit and Vegetables All Year Round: Everything You Need To Know About Owning A Greenhouse (Inspiring Gardening Ideas Book 18) Beginners Book On Greenhouse Growing: Tips For Basic Greenhouse Gardening Legacy (The Biodome Chronicles series Book 1) Greenhouse Gardening: Learn The Best Benefits Of How And Why You Should Apply Greenhouse Gardening Techniques Greenhouse Gardener's Companion, Revised: Growing Food & Flowers in Your Greenhouse or Sunspace Ted's Greenhouse: Creating a Four-Season Passive Solar Greenhouse From the Ground Up Ultimate Guide To Greenhouse Gardening for Beginners: How to Grow Flowers and Vegetables Year-Round In Your Greenhouse Gardening in Your Greenhouse (Greenhouse Basics) Hydroponics 101: A Complete Beginner's Guide to Hydroponic Gardening (3rd Edition) (greenhouse, hydroponics system, aquaponics, aquaculture, grow lights, hydrofarm, herb garden) The Forest Garden Greenhouse: How to Design and Manage an Indoor Permaculture Oasis Greenhouses: An Introduction to Winter Gardening (greenhouse, perennial, permaculture, agriculture, garden design, house plants, planting)