

For some, the whir and squeaks of motors, ventilators, and blowers--mingled with the clicks or snaps of thermostats--are a little terrifying. But a greenhouse is nothing more than a mechanical way to provide a place where plants can grow under optimum conditions.

Modern greenhouses, equipped with automatic devices, are about as simple to operate as your refrigerator. But an understanding of a few basics will make initial construction less confusing and, at the same time, keep your greenhouse from dwindling into a wasteland of shriveled plants.