

Lesson 9
Read Aloud Story: Our Garden Talk

We are all very fond of flowers, I most of all. And at last Arthur said he thought that miniature mills were really rather humbugging things, and it would be much easier and more useful to build a cold frame to keep choice auriculas and half-hardies in.

When we took up our gardens so hotly, Harry and Adela took up theirs, and we did a great deal, for the weather was fine.

We were surprised to find that the Old Squire's Scotch Gardener knew Miller's Gardener's Dictionary quite well. He said, "It's a gran' wurrrk!" (Arthur can say it just like him.)

One day he wished he could see it, and smell the leather binding; he said he liked to feel a nice smell. Father was away, and we were by ourselves, so we invited him into the library. Saxon wanted to come in too, but the gardener was very cross with him, and sent him out; and he sat on the mat outside and dribbled with longing to get in, and thudded his stiff tail whenever he saw any one through the doorway.

The Scotch Gardener enjoyed himself very much, and he explained a lot of things to Arthur, and helped us to put away the Dictionary when we had done with it.

When he took up his hat to go, he gave one long look all round the library. Then he turned to Arthur (and Saxon took advantage of this to wag his way in and join the party), and said, "It's a rare privilege, the free entry of a book chamber like this. I'm hoping, young gentleman, that you're not insensible of it?"

Then he caught sight of Saxon, and beat him out of the room with his hat.

But he came back himself to say, that it might happen that he would be glad not and again to hear what was said about this or that plant (of which he would write down the botanical name) in these noble volumes.

So we told him that if he would bring Saxon to see us pretty often, we would look up anything he wanted to know about in Miller's Gardener's Dictionary.

Lesson 9

What is a Cold Frame?

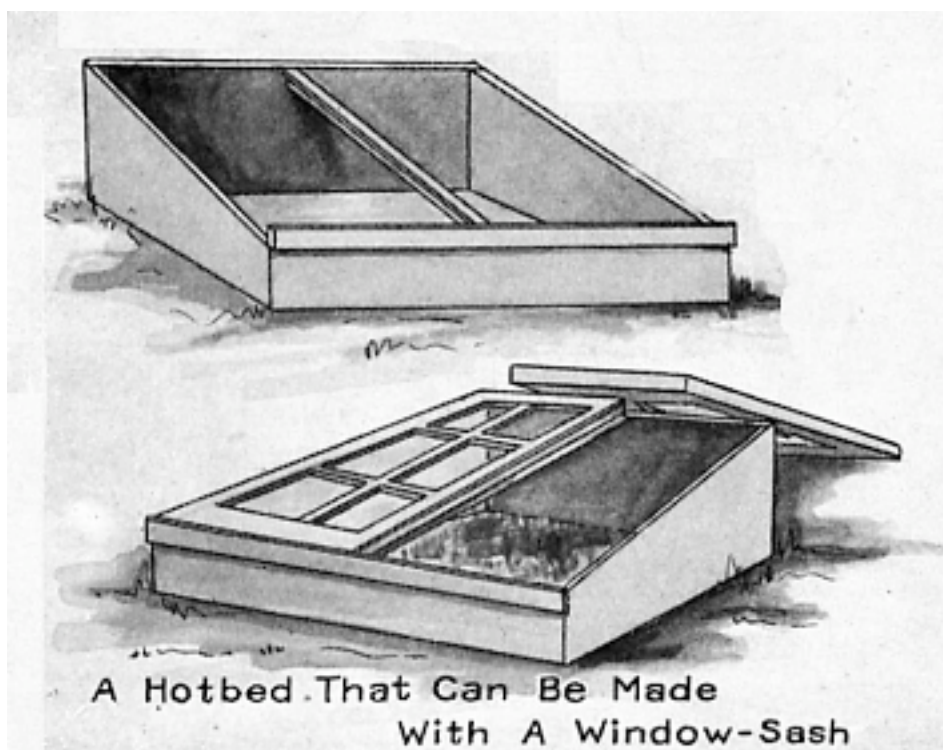
A *cold frame* is also known as a *hotbed*. It seems a bit funny that two such contradictory terms should refer to the same object, yet there is a valid explanation for each of the names.

A cold frame refers to this frame-shaped box, pictured below, which is built to plant young seedlings in during cold weather, to give them a headstart before the weather outside of the frame is warm enough for them to grow in a regular, exposed garden area.

Hotbed, this type of miniature greenhouse's other name, refers to the fact that, when the cold weather outside of this frame-bed is not a proper habitat for warm weather crops, they may be started and kept here, where there is adequate warmth for their early season survival. Some gardeners take the hotbed a step further by adding a heat source to further warm the bed.

Thus many plants may be started in a hotbed or cold frame, whichever name you prefer, and later moved to an outside garden when the weather is suitable.

Alternatively, a hotbed, which is often made from old windows or a framed-in sheet of glass cut specifically for this purpose, may be opened once the outside temperature is more suitable to the plants inside, thus allowing them to remain undisturbed, and yield their harvests while still planted in their original home, the hothouse (or cold frame.)



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What Plants Are Best Grown in a Cold Frame?

While many vegetable plants can be started in a cold frame before the weather is suitable for them to grow in a regular, exposed garden area, there are some vegetables which can be grown all winter in a cold frame. These are generally cruciferous and leaf vegetables.

Do some research to find out which vegetables are cruciferous, and which are considered leaf vegetables. Then, in the garden rows below, draw a row of cruciferous vegetables in one row, and a row of leaf vegetables in the other row.

Cruciferous Vegetables

Leaf Vegetables



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Why Do Plants Have Botanical Names?

Botanical plant names are necessary, because common names for plants vary from one part of the world, or even one part of any given country, to another. One plant may have several different common names, depending upon where you happen to be looking at it. Or, a single common name may refer to several plants that don't even resemble one another.

Giving each plant a botanical name, which is in Latin, alleviates this problem, because there is only one plant with that particular name.

In 1753, a Swedish scientist named Carl Linnaeus developed the *binomial* system of botanical names for plants which is still used today. *Binomial* means that there are two parts to the name. The first part of a plant's botanical name tells us its *genus* (a group of related plants that have similar characteristics), while the second part of its name tells us its *species* (more specifically related by characteristic.)

Look up the Latin (botanical) names for each of the flowers pictured below, and write them on the lines under the flower.

Oxeye Daisy



Purple Coneflower



Yarrow



Lesson 9
Botanical Names of Common Flowers

Look up the botanical names of these common flowers, and write them below the pictures.

Cowslip



Primrose



Scarlet Pimpernel



What do you notice about all of these botanical names?

According to what you have learned so far, what does that mean?