

Plan before you buy.

Use this worksheet to compare a kit with your growing goals, available space, and local conditions.

1. Define the job

- ☐ List what you want to grow and the months you want to use the greenhouse.
- ☐ Choose a realistic first-season workload and note who will water and check plants.
- ☐ Decide whether a greenhouse is needed or a smaller season extender would do.

Plants / seasons / daily routine:

2. Test the space

- ☐ Mark the proposed footprint, door swing, benches, and walking route.
- ☐ Check inside dimensions, sidewall height, and room for plants at mature size.
- ☐ Walk the layout carrying a tray or the largest item you expect to move inside.

Shortlisted kit size and layout:

3. Check the site

- ☐ Observe sun and shade during the season you intend to grow.
- ☐ Note drainage after rain, wind exposure, nearby branches, and access.
- ☐ Map practical water and power routes before choosing the final location.
- ☐ Ask the relevant local office about permits, setbacks, and structural requirements.

Confirm wind and snow suitability, foundation, and anchoring with the kit supplier and local requirements. This worksheet is a planning aid, not a construction specification.

Compare the complete project.

Get written answers and itemized quotes. An unchecked box is a question to resolve before ordering.

4. Confirm what the kit includes

- ☐ Frame, glazing, doors, vents, base, fasteners, and seals are itemized.
- ☐ Shipping, unloading, site access, and assembly requirements are understood.
- ☐ Foundation and anchoring instructions match the proposed site.
- ☐ Ventilation, shade, watering, and any heating needs have been considered.
- ☐ Warranty terms and replacement parts are available for review.

5. Build an all-in budget

Write quoted costs, then add a reserve that fits the uncertainty in your project.

Kit + freight + tax	
Site preparation + foundation + anchors	
Assembly labor + tools or rentals	
Water / power installation	
Vents / fans / shade / controls / heat	
Benches + storage + growing supplies	
Contingency reserve	
PROJECT TOTAL	

6. Plan the first season

- ☐ Estimate seasonal energy, water, consumables, and maintenance costs.
- ☐ Plan temperature monitoring and care when you are away.
- ☐ Keep the instructions, warranty, quotes, and supplier answers together.

Planning references: UGA Extension, Hobby Greenhouses (B910);
 Oklahoma State Extension, The Hobby Greenhouse (HLA-6705);
 NC State Extension Gardener Handbook, Appendix E. Source links appear in the website articles.