

## SECOND SESSION

### PLASTIC SHELTER CONSTRUCTION

A. D. WEGUELIN,  
*Barthers Farm Nurseries,  
Chapmanslade, Westbury, Wilts.*

We have successfully constructed plastic covered shelters at our nursery using, principally, second-hand units from ex-Service Nissen Huts and wooden railway sleepers (ties).

The structure is built on the railway sleepers placed in two lines 17 feet apart, outside measurement. The curved Nissen hut irons, consisting of two 10-foot lengths, and one quarter-length of 2 feet, 6 inches, are welded together to form one arc of 22 feet, 6 inches. The angles on the irons are used to bolt to the sleepers with coach bolts.

These iron "ribs" are 6 feet apart and distance pieces of six-foot lengths of 2-inch by 1-inch timber keep them at this distance. Wires (10 gauge) are run the length of the house, threaded through the holes which are already in the centre of the irons. In the end irons an eye-bolt is used to strain the wire taut.

Nylon net is then stretched over the frames and secured to the sleepers by staples at the sides and ends. The plastic is then stretched over the frames and held down at the sides and ends with a 1½-inch x ¾-inch batten. The top net is then put on and secured to the sleepers with staples and telephone wire. The staples are not driven right home so they can be withdrawn easily when removing or replacing the plastic.

Wide doors are used at both ends to provide ventilation and the easy passage of tractors.

Originally, some trouble was encountered with chafing of the net where it crosses the irons and, to overcome this, cheap plastic hosepipe (¾-inch diameter) is split and put over the protruding section of the irons.

The plastic is obtained from British Visqueen Ltd., Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts, and is 500 gauge with dimensions of 24 feet by 150 feet; it is advisable to obtain the "long-life" grade as this does not break down quickly.

Originally, the netting we used was No. 144 Nylon Black, six-inch square mesh, which was also 24 feet by 150 feet and was obtained from Bridport-Gundry Ltd., of Bridport, Dorset. We have now replaced this with No. 15/12 black polythene six-inch square mesh.