

Last fall, Runo dismantled our unheated greenhouse. The end bows had begun to decay, but the rest of them were in good shape. He renovated them during the winter, and earlier this spring he rebuilt the frame for the greenhouse.

It isn't quite the same as it was. It is smaller because of the discarding of the end bows, and Runo also shortened the lower ends of the bows as well, so it is not quite as tall as the original. But, basically, it is the same framework.

We ordered plastic covering from the same company based in North Dakota and Canada, as we had before. It was strong, tough, and lasted well. We were all set.

Except—we needed to wait for the proper weather. We were ready. Runo had finished the ends of the greenhouse, securing the plastic covering and covering the door. The gable ends were finished. All that was needed now was, really, the main part of the structure. We had a piece of woven greenhouse plastic twenty-five feet long that would go up and over the building in one piece. So, we prepared ahead by rolling the plastic, after securing it between two long strips of board on each end. So, we had two rolls, tied together, that we pulled up to the peak of the greenhouse with ropes and fastened them. They were secure for the time being.

Now, we had to wait. And wait. And wait. Every day, the wind blew. Sometimes, the strong breeze was from the north, on other days from the west or southwest, and one day from the east. It might be still in the early morning, but we had to take care of our livestock chores first, and by the time we were finished, the wind had picked up again. So, we waited.

Last Friday, when we finished our morning barn work, we walked out into a perfectly calm forenoon. Coffee time would have to wait.

Runo removed the ropes from the rolls of plastic and it cascaded smoothly down on both sides, neatly covering the structure exactly as planned. He spent the rest of the day securing the plastic on the ends, and the greenhouse was once again functional.

That same afternoon I went into the new greenhouse and planted lettuce, radishes, arugula, and onion seeds. The new season has begun.