

FYI - Lengthen Your Gourd Growing Season

By Ron Bair

Here is a little tip that I've done in the past to help add a few more growing days before harvest. I use heavy black plastic to cover the gourd patch when it starts threatening frost. Long trellises' are near impossible to accomplish this on, but it can be done.

This does work quite well for gourds grown on the ground. This will help protect the plants own to approximately 28 degrees. Cover the patch approximately 1 hour to 1 ½ hour before dark to help retain some plant heat as well as some ground heat. Remove the plastic in the morning after all other frost has melted away and the temperature begins to warm up.

Some gourds may still get frost-burnt if they touch the plastic directly. In some cases I've been able to get approximately another month if they are mild frosts and then it warms back up again for a few weeks. This is not a total 100% frost proof method, but it does help immensely down to certain temperatures.

Our back page has been modified to allow 1/2 page for the postal information so it is clearly viewable by the USPS. To accommodate the new layout I have moved the Board Members' block to the back page with all of the other "contact" information and the Gourd Happenings column to the next to last page. Jesse

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