

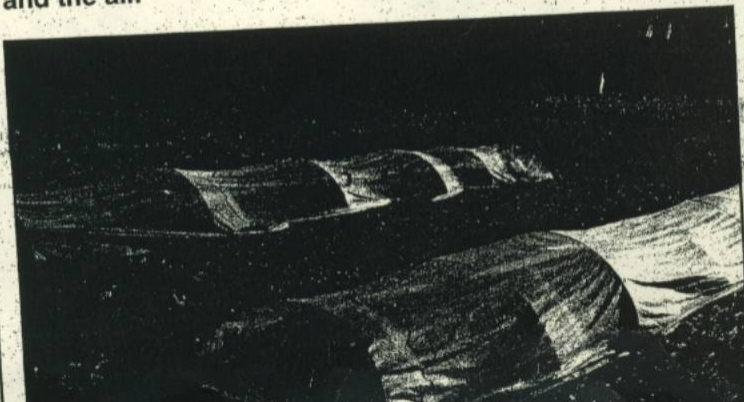


Delaware State News/Katie Kazmir

Heat is on

Kathy Brooks of Felton, a Master Gardener and owner of Misty Morning Herbs and More, invented a heating system for her greenhouse using energy created from a compost system. Pictured, Mrs. Brooks tends to her crimson clover and hairy vetch that she is growing in the greenhouse. When asked how she came up with the heating system, Mrs. Brooks replied, "I have trouble sleeping at night."

The compost system produces heat energy to warm Mrs. Brooks' greenhouse. She invented the system which uses a cylindrical rat wire mesh frame reinforced with steel pipes and lined with plastic at the sides and top to retain moisture and heat. Wood chips and organic manure are used to elevate the heat in the compost pile. A metal reservoir with a lid to keep the compost out is placed in the center of the pile and then partially filled with water. A sump pump is placed in the reservoir, connected to a pipe that exits the pile and is connected to hoses that enter the greenhouse. The hose travels under the tables in the greenhouse. The hoses heat the plants and the air.



Row tarps are used in Mrs. Brooks' garden to keep deer and other animals out of her winter greens, and also work to capture and retain heat to help the vegetables grow.