Garden & Greenhouse Porch

First illustrated observation edition | 29 October 2026



Actual enclosed porch, photographed October 26 at 6:43 PM (IMG_2306.JPEG).

28 verified photographs • 7 indoor/outdoor comparison pairs • October 24–29, 2026

PRIVATE DRAFT — No website publication, Git installation, or change to the original Dropbox photographs.

Welcome to the living Garden Handbook

This first edition gathers observations that were previously scattered across garden and greenhouse-porch conversations. Its purpose is to preserve the actual record of this porch enclosure, not to describe a hypothetical greenhouse or a stock photograph.

What this edition contains

• The enclosed porch after the front clear-vinyl panels and end diffused-plastic coverings were installed.

• A dated series of temperatures inside the porch and outdoors, measured with one TOPTES meter.

• Views of the banana plant, orchid window, and daylight conditions.

• Initial lessons about solar gain, overnight conditions, plant protection, and the location of a future freestanding greenhouse.

Photographs: a strict source rule

Every picture reproduced here comes from your two uploaded contact sheets, which were generated from the 28 actual JPEGs in your Dropbox Garden Photo Intake folder. No generic, web-sourced, or substitute images appear. Because the contact sheets contain smaller thumbnail images, the embedded photographs are preview resolution. The full-resolution originals remain untouched in Dropbox.

Dates and interpretation

The visible time inventory was obtained with Pillow from an EXIF timestamp field or a fallback field; the original camera-specific DateTimeOriginal tag has not been confirmed for every JPEG. The timestamp sequence is consistent with your own dated descriptions. Temperatures were transcribed from photographs where legible, with a provisional item labeled.

Read this as a dated field journal and a starting-point for a more comprehensive handbook. It is not yet a thermal-performance guarantee.

1. The enclosure as built

The existing porch was enclosed with clear vinyl across four front window sections and diffused plastic at the ends. The front roll material was 54 inches wide before cutting. The original porch screens are removable, and the user has considered 2 × 2 framing for improvements. There were no operating heaters or fans during the documented temperature comparisons.



Oct 24 • After covering the end openings.



Oct 26 • View toward a side of the enclosure.



Oct 26 • The enclosed seating and plant area.



Oct 26 • Wide view of the actual porch.

The clear front coverings preserve views into the garden, while the diffused end coverings scatter sunlight and provide some privacy. The photographs document the structure and appearance, not a measured air-leakage rating.

2. How we measured the porch

The TOPTES TS-710 hand-held meter shows temperature and relative humidity near the top and illumination in lux in larger digits below. The meter commonly sat indoors for an extended period, then was taken outdoors for approximately 10–30 minutes before the second photograph. The same instrument was used in sequence, so the readings were not simultaneous.



Oct 27, 8:14 AM • Meter on the porch.



Oct 27, 8:31 AM • Meter outdoors.

Rules for interpreting the comparisons

1. A positive difference means the porch measured warmer at its earlier observation time than the outside location at its later observation time.

2. Direct sunlight can greatly raise indoor temperatures in a clear enclosure; outdoor placement and weather can also affect the readings.

3. No heaters or fans were operating during this series. The readings therefore reflect the enclosure and environmental conditions as observed.

4. The larger illuminated digits are lux, not degrees Fahrenheit. Temperature and humidity are the smaller top-line values.

3. Measured inside-versus-outside comparisons

The pairs below are matched by your descriptions, file names, and image timestamps. Entries refer to 2026, and values are in Fahrenheit. "Difference" is inside minus outside; outside was measured later, after moving the meter.

Date	Inside / time	Outside / time	Δ°F	Photo pair
Oct 27	52.8° / 08:14	46.7° / 08:31	+6.1	2309 / 2310
Oct 27	90.6° / 14:46	77.0° / 15:09	+13.6	2321 / 2322
Oct 27	76.6° / 19:02	60.2° / 19:19	+16.4	2323 / 2325
Oct 28	53.6° / 07:45	47.8° / 08:01	+5.8	2329 / 2330
Oct 28	78.8° / 17:48	68.5° / 18:04	+10.3	2334 / 2335
Oct 29	57.5*° / 07:55	51.9° / 08:11	+5.6*	2338 / 2339
Oct 29	91.0° / 15:36	76.6° / 15:52	+14.4	2340 / 2341

† Oct 29 morning: the 57.5°F inside value and its +5.6°F difference are preliminary readings from the contact sheet; confirm with the original full-resolution JPEG before treating them as final.

Observed pattern

All seven dated pairs show a warmer porch. On October 27 and 28, the morning difference was about 6°F, while the afternoon or early-evening differences were substantially larger. October 29 reached 91.0°F in the porch at 3:36 PM, compared with 76.6°F outdoors at 3:52 PM.

This demonstrates meaningful daytime solar heating and shows why ventilation or shade may be as important as frost protection. It does not by itself establish how well the enclosure would maintain temperature throughout an unusually cold night.

4. October 24–26: covering and early observations

October 24 — Light, leaves, and newly covered openings

The first porch-wide photograph was made October 24 at 3:29 PM. Another image shows the TOPTES meter near a banana leaf at 3:55 PM. Initial temperature increases during installation were encouraging, but they were not a rigorously paired indoor/outdoor measurement.



Oct 24 • Actual porch after installing end coverings.



Oct 24 • Banana leaf and light-meter observation.

October 26 — Full enclosure photographed

On October 26, the complete enclosure was photographed around 6:43 PM. The two end sections were diffused and the four front window sections were clear. Measurements followed at 6:50 PM indoors and 6:57 PM outdoors, with no fans or heat. A further photograph at 10:09 PM is preserved but is not used as a paired value until its placement is confirmed.



Oct 26, 6:50 PM • TOPTES on porch.



Oct 26, 6:57 PM • TOPTES outdoors.

5. October 27: from sunrise to evening

Morning: 6.1°F warmer inside

At 8:14 AM the TOPTES meter showed 52.8°F indoors. At 8:31 AM it read 46.7°F outdoors after acclimating. The sun had not yet reached the measured area. The meter had remained on the porch overnight.



Inside • 8:14 AM • 52.8°F.



Outside • 8:31 AM • 46.7°F.

Daylight and afternoon heating

The 11 AM photographs show the sun entering the porch. By 2:46 PM, the porch was 90.6°F; the outdoor reading at 3:09 PM was 77.0°F. These are sequential readings with a 23-minute interval, not simultaneous weather-station records.



Inside • 2:46 PM • 90.6°F.



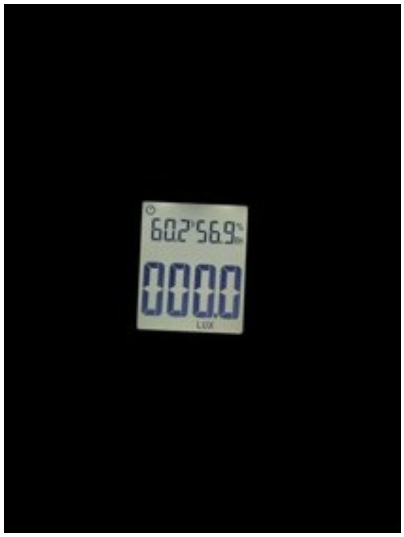
Outside • 3:09 PM • 77.0°F.

6. October 27: evening cooling

The enclosed porch measured 76.6°F at approximately 7:02 PM. The meter was then moved outside, where it stood until the later photographs at approximately 7:19 PM. One photograph shows the display poorly in darkness; the illuminated exposure shows 60.2°F.



Inside • 7:02 PM • 76.6°F.



Outside • 7:19 PM • 60.2°F.

Interpretation

The 16.4°F difference is a large late-day contrast, consistent with the porch staying warm after daytime solar exposure. Because the readings were separated by 17 minutes and the instrument was moved, this observation should not be treated as a formal thermal-retention test. It is nevertheless useful as a field record.

A note on nighttime photographs

The original of IMG_2324 was recorded at 7:19:04 PM but the meter screen is difficult to read. IMG_2325, recorded 21 seconds afterward, provides an illuminated display. Both are preserved in the photograph inventory.

7. October 28: morning and late-day pairs

The meter had been on the porch throughout the night. The sun had not reached this location at the first morning reading. No heaters or fans were in use.



Inside • 7:45 AM • 53.6°F.



Outside • 8:01 AM • 47.8°F.



Inside • 5:48 PM • 78.8°F.



Outside • 6:04 PM • 68.5°F.

Morning difference: +5.8°F. Late-day difference: +10.3°F. At the evening observation there was little or no sunlight left on the enclosure. The outside readings were taken after allowing the sensor time outdoors.

8. October 29: morning and afternoon pairs

The porch had no heaters or fans in use. The morning reading was photographed just before direct sun reached the measured area. The afternoon reading was made with some direct sunlight, but not the same full exposure as midday.



Inside • 7:55 AM • approx. 57.5°F†.



Outside • 8:11 AM • 51.9°F.



Inside • 3:36 PM • 91.0°F.



Outside • 3:52 PM • 76.6°F.

The afternoon difference was +14.4°F. This is a useful demonstration of the need for solar overheating protection as well as cold-weather protection. The morning inside figure should be checked in the full-resolution original before final publication.

9. Plant and sunlight observations

Banana plant

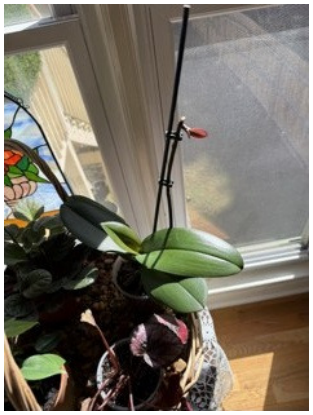
A banana pup separated from a much larger parent plant was reported to be about four feet tall in October, with multiple new leaves and new growth. Its large leaf was photographed with the light meter on October 24. The enclosure may improve its growing environment, but actual winter cold protection remains to be tested.

Orchid window baseline — a separate indoor setting

On October 25, an orchid beside an indoor window facing roughly 176° true south was photographed. A contemporaneous observation recorded approximately 78°F, 43% relative humidity and 3,470 lux at 2:36 PM. Morning light was indirect, direct light occurred later in the morning/noon period, and intensity declined by afternoon. These values are a reference for site planning, not a measurement inside the porch.



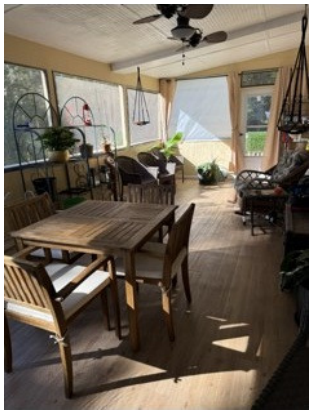
Oct 24 • Banana leaf and meter.



Oct 25 • Actual orchid at south-facing window.



Oct 25 • Orchid-window meter; larger digits show lux.



Oct 27 • Sunlight reaching the actual porch.

10. What the data means — and does not mean

Supported by the current observations

• In the recorded pairs, the enclosed porch was warmer than the nearby outdoor measuring location.

• The contrast was typically modest before direct sun and considerably larger following daytime heating.

• On multiple afternoons, the porch rose near or above 90°F even without supplemental heat.

• The porch includes both clear front coverings and diffused end coverings, so light transmission and privacy differ by orientation.

Not yet established

• How warm the enclosure will remain during the coldest winter nights.

• Heat-loss performance or any guaranteed freeze-protection rating.

• Whether humidity, radiant sun on the meter, or sensor placement contributed to individual differences.

• Whether the separate future freestanding greenhouse will have similar behavior.

Practical observations to continue

1. Track indoor and outdoor minimum temperatures at the same time using two sensors if possible.

2. Note sun exposure, outside wind, vent opening, fans, and heaters for every new reading.

3. Add plant response photographs and annotate any signs of cold stress or overheating.

4. Watch for excessive midday temperatures; consider ventilation, shade, and safe heater controls if needed.

11. Future greenhouse location

The preferred longer-term greenhouse is entirely freestanding in the backyard, between the house and approximately the middle of the yard. The rear fence area is less suitable because trees and woods reduce available sunlight. Its eventual orientation must balance winter sunlight against summer cooling and shade.

A separate project, informed by this one

The current porch data is a useful local microclimate reference, but it is not a prediction for the proposed greenhouse. The new structure will have different thermal mass, ventilation, glazing, exposure, dimensions, and nighttime losses.

Next Orion Books milestone

This first edition can now be reviewed as a private handbook. To incorporate it into Orion permanently, inspect the existing handbook source layout, choose the correct source location, replace preview images with copies of the original full-resolution files, display a complete Git diff, and proceed only after explicit approval and a separate install confirmation.

SOURCE RULE: User-owned photographs only. Original files stay unchanged. Publication is deliberate.

Appendix A. Complete 28-photo inventory

Recorded timestamps below come from the Pillow inventory supplied by the owner. The sources are the 28 Dropbox originals; the pictures embedded in this PDF are reduced-resolution contact-sheet-derived previews.

Original JPEG	Recorded date/time	Description
IMG_1048.JPEG	10-26 22:09:08	Late-evening TOPTES reading; context needs confirmation
IMG_2298.JPEG	10-24 15:29:32	Porch overview after end-panel covering
IMG_2299.JPEG	10-24 15:55:14	Banana plant leaf and hand-held meter
IMG_2301.JPEG	10-25 14:27:23	Orchid at south-facing indoor window
IMG_2302.JPEG	10-25 14:36:49	Orchid-window light-meter reading
IMG_2304.JPEG	10-26 18:43:31	Enclosed porch view, one side
IMG_2305.JPEG	10-26 18:43:41	Enclosed porch wide view
IMG_2306.JPEG	10-26 18:43:55	Enclosed porch wide view
IMG_2307.JPEG	10-26 18:50:08	Evening meter on porch, no heaters or fans
IMG_2308.JPEG	10-26 18:57:24	Evening meter outdoors
IMG_2309.JPEG	10-27 08:14:41	Morning porch reading: 52.8 F
IMG_2310.JPEG	10-27 08:31:16	Morning outside reading: 46.7 F
IMG_2313.JPEG	10-27 11:02:50	Sunlight enters porch, overview
IMG_2314.JPEG	10-27 11:03:20	Late-morning meter on porch

Continue on the next page for October 27–29 photographs.

Original JPEG	Recorded date/time	Description
IMG_2315.JPEG	10-27 11:07:01	Late-morning outdoor meter
IMG_2321.JPEG	10-27 14:46:02	Afternoon porch reading: 90.6 F
IMG_2322.JPEG	10-27 15:09:40	Afternoon outdoor reading: 77.0 F
IMG_2323.JPEG	10-27 19:02:10	Evening porch reading: 76.6 F
IMG_2324.JPEG	10-27 19:19:04	Outside meter at dusk; display difficult to read
IMG_2325.JPEG	10-27 19:19:25	Outside meter illuminated: 60.2 F
IMG_2329.JPEG	10-28 07:45:18	Morning porch reading: 53.6 F
IMG_2330.JPEG	10-28 08:01:44	Morning outdoor reading: 47.8 F
IMG_2334.JPEG	10-28 17:48:49	Evening porch reading: 78.8 F
IMG_2335.JPEG	10-28 18:04:54	Evening outdoor reading: 68.5 F
IMG_2338.JPEG	10-29 07:55:18	Morning porch reading: approx. 57.5 F
IMG_2339.JPEG	10-29 08:11:20	Morning outdoor reading: 51.9 F
IMG_2340.JPEG	10-29 15:36:44	Afternoon porch reading: 91.0 F
IMG_2341.JPEG	10-29 15:52:50	Afternoon outdoor reading: 76.6 F

Source verification and private status

Originals: Dropbox / Orion Handoff / Garden Photo Intake. Excluded unrelated photographs IMG_2311 and IMG_2312 were removed before this edition. This PDF is a working artifact only: it has not modified the originals, committed Git changes, or deployed to Orion.

The editable Markdown, metadata inventories and contact-sheet-derived preview copies are supplied in the companion ZIP source package.