

## Garden Fleece Guide – How to Use & What to Buy!

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### What is it? –

[Garden fleece](#) (or horticultural fleece) is a membrane used to help stop frost getting to plants, trees and all manner of materials. It is a polyethylene mulch fabric that can be draped and fixed over frames, cages and on items themselves. It often comes in white and allows a considerable amount of light to penetrate through to get to plants and shrubs you may wish to cover. QVS versions of this product come in a medium duty 17gsm & a heavy duty 35gsm (grams per square meter).

### Which one do I buy? –

If you in a climate such as the UK, getting occasional frosts and cold snaps (down to -2 °C) then the 17gsm is usually sufficient. If you live in an area that has cold hard frosts on a regular basis (down to -5 °C), or you feel that your plants need a little more help and protection, then the 35gsm is the product you will need to purchase. Make sure it is UV stabilised or UV protected; this barrier against the harmful sun's rays will considerably slow down any degradation of the membrane itself.

### How do I use it? –

- **Potted Plants** are usually the most vulnerable in cold weather, not only can the plants freeze, but so can the pot causing it to crack. Cover the stems and leaves with the membrane directly and tie at the bottom to secure (a frame is not necessary, however can be used). Leave a little soil exposed to allow for water to enter. If the pot is a breakable material then wrap the fleece around it a number of times; it is not just for your precious shrubs, but garden pottery, art and breakable items too. Use inside greenhouses is common as well for extra warmth and protection. The fleece can be attached to the inside panes of the glasshouse to allow heat in, but prevent it from escaping.
- **Flower Beds & Vegetable Patches** are covered in a similar fashion to the potted plants above. Frames and cages are more prevalent for beds so the fleece isn't touching the plants themselves at all times. If a crop cage setup already exists then use staples, bungee or cable ties to fix the membrane. Polytunnel hoops are especially effective for creating a frame; their malleable nature allows them to be adjusted easily.
- **Statues & Other Garden Objects** can be protected to some degree by the fleece as well. Wrap it around your chosen object 2 to 3 times for maximum effect and use string to hold it in place.

### Other Benefits –

Other benefits include a defence against rain, sleet, snow and wind. It also helps to warm the soil by trapping in heat, keeping the roots of the plant warmer. You also have a level of protection against wildlife and insects, meaning that they can't get their hands on your crop before you do.