

High Tunnels

UNIVERSITY OF
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Lincoln EXTENSION

Know how. Know **now.**



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High Tunnel

- High tunnels, or hoophouses, are unheated greenhouses that can help market gardeners extend their growing season so that they can improve the profitability of their farms.



Benefits

- During all seasons, high tunnels provide protection from wind and rain, which can result in increased crop yields and improved quality as well as decreased incidence of pest and disease problems



Costs

- Unlike commercial greenhouses that cost up to \$20 per square foot to construct, high tunnels can cost as little as \$0.50 per square foot
- Greenhouse structures may be covered with glass, rigid panels, or double-layers of plastic, but high tunnels are usually covered with a single layer of plastic



Environmental Control

- Most high tunnels are passively ventilated via roll-up sidewalls and end walls that can be opened or removed _
- Crops generally require no heat, though supplementary heat can be provided for protection on cold nights or used to extend the season even longer
- Row covers used within high tunnels provide additional protection from cold temperatures



Production Systems

- Crops are typically grown in ground beds within the high tunnel rather than in containers _
- Crops grown in these ground beds must be irrigated because rain cannot enter the protective structure
- Some high tunnels are erected on skids so that the structure can be moved during the production cycle





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