



Operation & Maintenance Plan High Tunnel System (Code 325)

Expected Lifespan

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 5 year(s).

A properly operated and maintained **High Tunnel System Practice** is an asset to your farm operation and your agricultural land. Implementation of High Tunnel System will help you to improve plant health and vigor on land producing crops. This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements of the operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

Managing a tunnel requires intensive and vigilant attention by the producer.

- Periodically inspect the high tunnel and repair, reinstall, or replace, as needed to accomplish the intended purpose.
- Manage the structure in a manner that limits wind and/or snow damage. Close sides and ends before storm events. In areas that receive snow and ice, the structure should be closed prior to winter weather.
- Remove snow and ice from the structure cover and sides promptly to prevent structure failure.
- When the structure is at serious risk of collapse due to weather conditions, consider slashing the plastic cover to relieve pressure and save the framework.
- Perform soil tests regularly to monitor nutrients and to monitor salt build-up. The soils under the immobile high tunnels may require periodic “flushing” to remove salt build-up. This is accomplished by removing the cover for a season to allow natural precipitation to infiltrate, or by artificially flooding the ground under cover.
- If needed, seed all disturbed earth surfaces outside of the high tunnel and maintain the vegetation throughout the structure’s life.
- Removal of cover materials shall be consistent with the intended purpose and site conditions.
- Plan for proper disposal of the cover at the end of its useful life.
- Operation of equipment near and on the site shall not compromise the intended purpose of the high tunnel structure or its cover.

Specific Site Requirements