



CT High Tunnel System - 325

Conservation Practice Job Sheet Lifespan – 5 years

Producer:		Location:	
Farm, Tract and Field(s):		Planner:	
Program:		Date:	



Definition

An enclosed polyethylene, polycarbonate, plastic, or fabric covered structure that is used to cover and protect crops from sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold, to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner.

Purpose

Improve plant health and vigor.

Where Used

Crops must be grown in the natural soil. Raised beds may be installed to improve soil condition or access. Raised beds should be a maximum of 12” deep, unless they are accommodating a disability or remediating soil contamination.

Resource Management System

A Resource Management System is a combination of conservation practices and resource management, for the treatment of all identified resource concerns for soil, water, air, plants and animals, within a conservation management or planning unit that meets or exceeds the quality criteria in the Field Office Technical Guide for resource sustainability. Plan supportive conservation practices to address all environmental concerns associated with the installation and use of the high tunnel systems such as

erosion, irrigation, and runoff. Additional practices should be considered as part of a conservation plan such as nutrient and pest management, mulching, cover crops and crop rotation.

Criteria, Considerations, and Specifications

The Criteria, Considerations, and Specifications for this practice shall be in concurrence with the CT Field Office Technical Guide and the CT Conservation Practice Standard for this practice. **See Standard for all required Criteria.**

Certification

NRCS will review all designs to ensure that the chosen model and any additional components meet NRCS Connecticut criteria. **NRCS will not certify a High Tunnel System that has not had the design reviewed prior to construction.**

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) – O&M is required to maintain this practice for its 5 year lifespan. Refer to Operation and Maintenance requirements specific to this installation for further requirements in Checkout Certification below.

- 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.
- Prepare an operation and maintenance (O&M) plan specific to the installation and review with the landowner and/or operator responsible for the practice. Provide specific instruction for proper operation and maintenance of each component of this practice and detail the level of repairs needed to maintain the effectiveness and useful life of the practice.
- 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 cutting the plastic cover to relieve pressure and save the framework.
- Perform soil tests regularly to monitor nutrients and to monitor salt and mineral 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 using sprinkler irrigation.
- 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.

PLAN AND SPECIFICATIONS

Planned By:
Producer:
Location:
Contract #:
Date:

Site Specific Resource Attributes Prior to High Tunnel

Soil Type	Slope %	Slope Length	T

Model Chosen

Manufacturer:	
Model:	
Width:	Length:
Additional Components to meet Criteria:	

Supporting Practices Needed for Stabilization and Functioning of This Site: (check all that apply)

- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Mulching (484)
- Roof Runoff Structure (558)
- Underground Outlet (620)
- Other (specify)

See Attached Map – required to be included on map:

- Approved site location and orientation of the high tunnel
- Water source
- Any needed supporting practices
 - ❖ **NOTE:** This location has been inspected and approved. Any change to the planned location must undergo a site review process with NRCS prior to installation.

High Tunnel Construction:

- Contact Call Before You Dig (CBYD) at 1-800-922-4455 or 811 at least 3 working days in advance of construction for locations of underground utilities.
- Obtain any required permits
- Prepare site according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Lay out tunnel according to site plan.
- Assemble high tunnel structure according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Install supporting practices as required, according to construction plans provided.

Additional Criteria for Installation:

Additional O&M requirements specific to installation:

Note: Any changes to this plan must be approved by the NRCS representative managing the project.

Concurrence of Participant:

Plan Certification:

Record of Completion and Check Out Certification

Attached:

- Map of installed high tunnel and any associated practices
- Photos of installed high tunnel

Practice Checkout:

- Frame is gothic style* (peaked, not rounded). Minimum height is 6 feet.
- Polyethelene cover, 6 mil greenhouse grade or better, UV resistant
 - 4 year cover warranty
- Runoff directed away from the structure to avoid ponding
- All disturbed areas vegetated

* Gothic style is required to be eligible for EQIP payment

As-Built Measurements and Information:

Manufacturer:		
Installed By:		
Model:		
Width:	Length:	Total SF:

Supporting Practices Installed:

Check out (As-Built) Notes:

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Practice Certification Statement:		
I have Job Approval Authority and have inspected the implementation of this practice and certify that it has been implemented according to the practice standard and the specifications in this job sheet.		
Certified by:	Title:	Date

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