

High Tunnel System

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

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Photo Source: www.hightunnels.org

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

This practice applies to land capable of producing crops. This practice applies where sun or wind intensity may damage crops, or where an extension of the growing season is needed due to climatic conditions.

The practice does not apply to crops not grown in the natural soil profile (i.e. tables/benches, portable pots, hydroponically, etc.).

Conservation management system

Water runoff from the high tunnels or from other nearby sources can cause erosion and ponding

issues that may require the application of other practices such as infiltration trenches, diversions, underground outlets and critical area plantings. These additional practices must be planned and installed as a condition for the installation of a high tunnel.

High tunnels must be located next to a reliable water source for irrigation.

Raised beds may be installed to improve soil condition, fertility, and access. Raised beds are a maximum of 12 inches in depth.

The practice does not include greenhouses or low tunnel systems.

Additional practices should be considered as a part of a conservation plan, such as nutrient and pest management and crop rotation.

High Tunnel System – Job Sheet

Producer _____ Location _____

Field Office _____ Conservation Contract _____

Materials List

High Tunnel Structure, size(s) _____

Supporting Practices Required:

- Manufactured Gutter System
- Critical Area Planting (job sheet attached)
- Infiltration Trench along each side (construction plan attached)
- Underground Outlets (construction plan attached)
- Diversion (construction plan attached)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (construction plan attached)
- Other _____

High Tunnel System Construction

- Prepare site according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Lay out building location according to site plan.
- Assemble high tunnel structure according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Install supporting practices as required, according to construction plans provided.

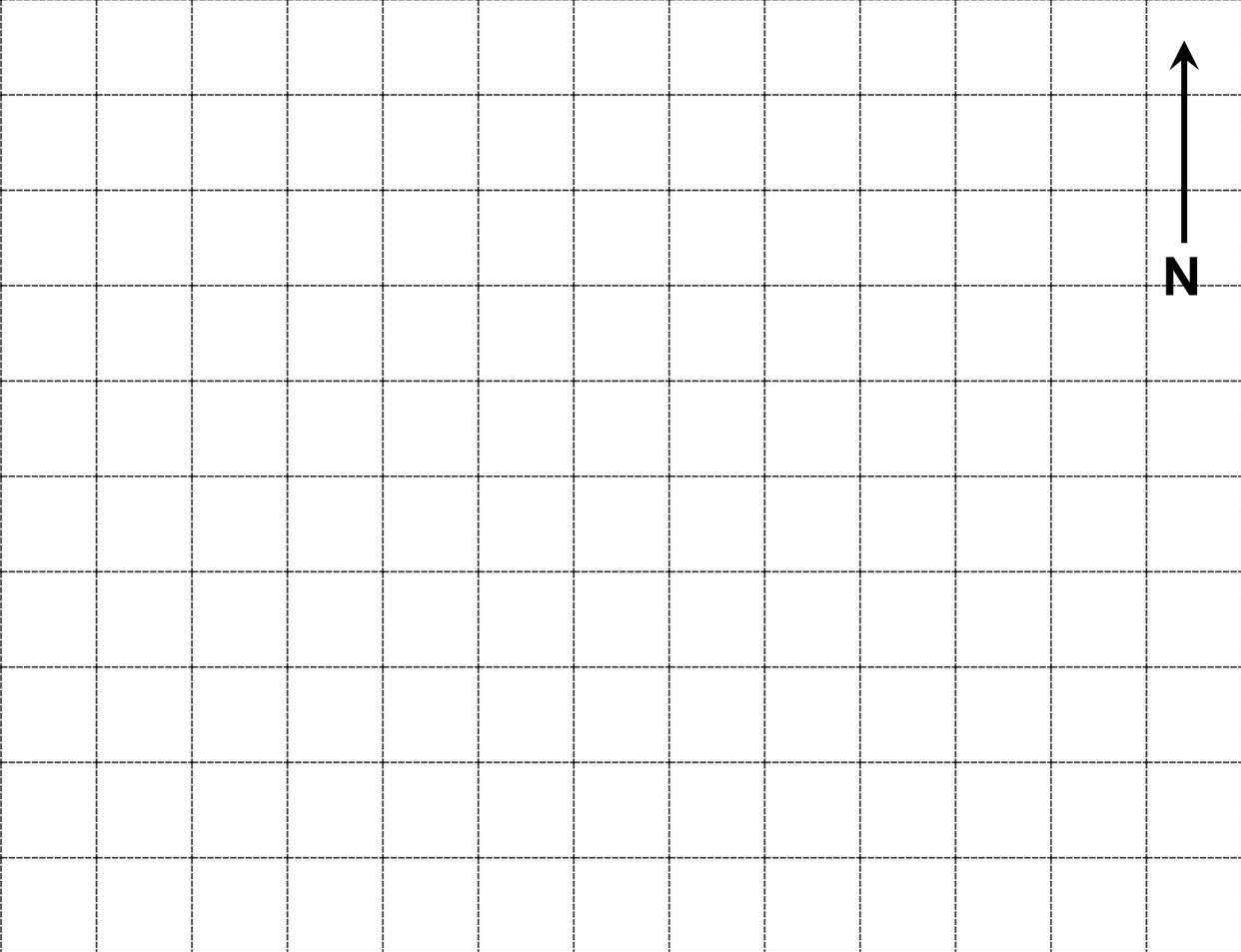
Operation and Maintenance

- Periodically inspect structure and cover for damage. Reinstall or repair promptly.
- Follow manufacturer’s instructions for operation and maintenance of the high tunnel structure.
- Avoid damage to structure from equipment operated in and around the seasonal high tunnel.
- Inspect runoff control measures after every significant rainfall event. Repair promptly.

High Tunnel System – Layout and Location

Plan view of seasonal high tunnel system site shown below.

Scale 1"=_____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



Additional Specifications and Notes:

High Tunnel System – Construction Checkout

Seasonal High Tunnel Structure – <i>as-built</i> measurements	
Length (ft)	Height in Center (ft)
Width (ft)	Structure Manufacturer

Supporting Practices Installed
<input type="checkbox"/> Manufactured Gutter System <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Area Planting <input type="checkbox"/> Infiltration Trench along each side <input type="checkbox"/> Underground Outlets <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation System, Microirrigation <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

CHECK OUT:	
Amount Completed: _____ square feet.	Mark As-Built location on plan map.
Remarks _____	
This practice meets NRCS standards and specifications	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Check out by: _____	Date: _____

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High Tunnel System – Status Check

Producer _____ Location _____
 Field Office _____ Conservation Contract _____
 Report Date _____

Actual cost of Seasonal High Tunnel System \$ _____

Maintenance requirements : *(add more sheets if necessary)*

Activity or Item <i>(list)</i>	Cost
	\$

Crops grown in Seasonal High Tunnel:

Crop (type)	Crop Year	Yield	Nutrients (Fertilizer)			Pesticide(s)		
			Type	Rate	Timing	Type	Rate	Timing

Benefits for plant quality: _____

Benefits for soil quality: _____

Benefits for water quality: _____

Additional growing season and yield gained from high tunnel: _____

Producer’s recommendations and observations:

