

Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops

Approved Product List & Selection Criteria ME-798

Vendor claims that models are “NRCS approved” may not be accurate since minimum criteria/specifications vary from state to state. *Models that do not meet Maine’s Criteria are not eligible for NRCS programs.*

Choose an approved model from the list of Approved Product List for Maine (below). The producer is required to supply NRCS with the manufacturer’s design and instructions for the specific model and size for review and approval prior to purchase. To be eligible, a model must meet the following Required High Tunnel Design Criteria. NRCS will review all designs, including those on the list, to ensure that the chosen model does meet the criteria. High tunnels that are not on the Approved Product List must be reviewed and approved by State Resource Conservationist or appointed staff.

****Producers are responsible for ensuring that the model is ordered with all required components to meet Maine’s requirements.****

Approved Product List for Maine*

Source	Model
Griffin Greenhouse & Nursery Supplies Tewksbury, MA (978-851-4346) www.griffins.com	New England Windjammer Series 5000
Ledgewood Farms Moultonborough, NH (603-476-8829) www.ledgewoodfarm.com	Ledgewood Farm Gothic
Rimol Greenhouse Systems, Inc. Hooksett, NH (603-494-9426) www.rimol.com	Nor’Easter Northpoint Eastpoint Rolling Thunder
Harnois Industries St. Thomas, Quebec (888-427-6647) www.harnois.com	Ovaltech I Ovaltech III
Four Season Tools Kansas City, MO (816-444-7330) www.SmallFarmTools.com	Four Season Moveable Gothic
W.H. Milikowski, Inc. Stafford Springs, CT (800-243-7170) www.milikowski.com	Northern Star Series

Required High Tunnel Design Criteria:

- Frame is gothic style (peaked, not rounded)
- Maximum tunnel width is 30 ft. Minimum height is 6 feet
- Bows and ground posts are at least:
 - (i) 1.90" round 14 gauge galvanized steel or stronger for tunnels \geq 26 ft. wide
 - (ii) 1.66" round 14 gauge galvanized steel or stronger for tunnels $<$ 26 ft. wide
 - (iii) 2.00" square 16 gauge galvanized for all tunnel widths
 - (iv) 1.625" x 2.750" oval 16 gauge for all tunnel widths
- Bows are spaced 4 ft. apart. Bows may be spaced 6 ft. apart only for tunnels constructed with galvanized steel bows and ground posts that are at least
 - (i) 2.375" round 14 gauge or
 - (ii) 2.0" x 3.56" oval 16 gauge
- 3 purlins for tunnels $<$ 26 ft. wide, 5 purlins for tunnels \geq 26 ft. wide
- Trusses with braces/cross-ties every other bow for tunnels \geq 26 ft. wide
- Wind bracing between last and next to last bow on each end
- Frame is covered with at least 6-mil, 4-year UV resistant polyethylene film
- Roll-up or drop-down sides are installed on both sides and rope (or equivalent material) is attached from hip-board to baseboard to protect sides from billowing
- End walls are framed with wood lumber or metal and covered with UV resistant polyethylene film (at least 6-mil, 4-year), polycarbonate, or wood
- At least one end wall contains a door for access
- Bows/posts shall consist of no more than 5 individual segments, including ground posts.
Typically this includes 2 ground posts, 2 half bows, and a bow connector. (Splices/sleeves may be used to join posts/bows and are not considered segments.)
- All segments must be through bolted (bolt and nut) at the connection point

High Tunnel Design Considerations

- Construct a minimum 6 ft. x 6 ft. opening on each endwall for increased ventilation and access (e.g. 2- 36 inch wide doors on each end or larger roll-up, sliding, or hinged doors).
- Evaluate the size of the equipment to be used in the tunnel when constructing the endwalls and the height of the sidewall as it relates to the height of the target crops.
- Add more purlins and/or wind bracing kits in windier areas.
- Avoid plywood on southern end of the tunnel if oriented N-S. Paint white to increase light reflectance.

**These lists are subject to update – product lists with later dates will supersede this list. This product list is not all inclusive and does not imply NRCS endorsement of any product, company, or position.*