



High Tunnel System

Vermont Conservation Practice Job Sheet

325



SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following page(s) of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the High Tunnel System 325 practice standard found in the Vermont NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Information contained in this document is considered part of the conservation plan.

Photo source: www.hort.cornell.edu/hightunnel

Client Name:		Town:	
Farm:		Tract:	
Field:		Date:	
Designed by:		Program:	

Purpose: This practice will be implemented in order to: <i>Check all that apply</i>	
Extend the growing season	Improve soil quality
Improve plant quality	Improve water quality from reduced nutrient and pesticide transport
Other: (Describe)	

Definition

A high tunnel is a gothic-style, polyethylene covered structure at least 6 feet in height, which modifies the climate to create more favorable growing conditions for vegetable and other specialty crops grown in the natural soil. Note: electrical, heating and mechanical ventilation systems can be added at the participant's own expense.

Purpose

The purpose of the high tunnel is to extend the crop growing season, improve plant quality, improve soil quality, and improve water quality from reduced nutrient and pesticide transport. Season extension can help save energy by producing local food in the colder months.

High Tunnel Structure – Planned Extent:	
Length (ft):	Total square feet:
Width (ft):	Number of Tunnels:

Selection

Choose models based on the selection criteria listed on the following page. **The model chosen must meet all of the following criteria.** A high tunnel is a versatile structure that can be modified in different ways and often there is no standard "kit".

High Tunnel Required Criteria:

- Frame must be gothic style (peaked, not round)
- Tunnel width must not exceed 30 ft.
- Must be installed according to manufacturer's specifications
- The frame must be covered with at least 6-mil, 4-year UV resistant polyethylene film (the tunnel must be covered in order to be certified for payment)
- End walls are framed with wood lumber or metal and covered with UV resistant polyethylene film (at least 6-mil, 4-year), polycarbonate, or plywood
- At least one end wall contains a door for access

High Tunnel System Construction
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare site according to manufacturer's instructions. Sites should be level, well-drained, and clear of large stones and other debris. Consider using a site level/transit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow enough space along sides of structure for snow removal equipment, as snow must be removed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assemble high tunnel structure according to manufacturer's instructions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seed down the disturbed area around the exterior of the tunnel with perennial sod. Use straw or hay mulch to stabilize the soil and improve seed germination. (Conservation Practice Standard 342 and 484)



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Operation and Maintenance

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for operation and maintenance of the high tunnel structure.
- Periodically inspect structure and cover for damage. **Reinstall or repair plastic promptly.** Most vendors sell repair tape specifically for patching rips and holes. Clean existing plastic with soap and warm water prior to applying repair tape. Use tape by itself for small holes or tears. For larger holes or rips, cut square sections of polyethylene at least 3" larger than the hole. Tape plastic patch to the existing plastic on **both** the interior and exterior of the tunnel.
- Completely close up high tunnel during high wind events.
- Inspect runoff control measures after every significant rainfall event. Repair promptly.
- **Remove snow on and around the structure. During periods of heavy snow accumulation, remove snow promptly so the snow does not collapse the structure.**

Other: _____

Practice Implementation: Certifying official completes 'Check Out information

Recommendation: Attach digital photograph(s) to document practice installation and illustrate practice before and after effects.

CHECK OUT:

Amount Completed: Number: _____ Square feet _____

Mark the As-Built location on the conservation plan map.

Remarks _____

This practice meets NRCS standards and specifications Yes No

Check out by: _____ Date: _____

As-built measurements:

Length (ft)	Model
Width (ft)	Manufacturer

If you have questions about this planned **I High Tunnel** practice contact:

Name:	Tel:	Email:
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