

## 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.

## PURPOSES

- » Improve plant health and vigor.
- » Extend the growing season due to climatic conditions.

## PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

Supportive conservation practices and/or treatment measures shall be implemented to address all environmental concerns associated with the installation and use of the high tunnel system (structures) such as erosion, irrigation, and runoff.

Crops must be grown in the natural soil profile. Raised beds may be installed to improve soil condition, fertility, and access. Raised beds shall not exceed 12 inches in depth.

The high tunnel structure must be planned, designed, and constructed from a manufactured kit in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations. The high tunnel frame must be constructed of metal, wood, or durable plastic; and be at least 6 feet in height at the peak of the structure. If required for enclosure, end wall covering may be of greenhouse grade plastic, polycarbonate, wood, or other recommended material. Structures shall be designed and sized to accommodate entry/exit points to facilitate movement of equipment and supplies needed for the production of planned crops.

These structures shall be constructed on level grade or naturally occurring slopes, of five percent or less.

Select the high tunnel covering material of a significant thickness to withstand the temperature change from the period required and shall have a 4-year minimum lifespan. For polyethylene covers, use a minimum 6-mil greenhouse grade, UV resistant material.

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Structures shall be designed and sized to accommodate entry/exit points to facilitate movement of equipment and supplies needed for the production of planned crops.

Periodically inspect the high tunnel and repair, reinstall, or replace materials 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 shall be closed prior to winter weather.

Remove snow and ice from the structure cover and sides promptly to prevent structure failure.

Seed all disturbed earth surfaces outside of the high tunnel and maintain the vegetation throughout the structure's life.



## PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

As a minimum, the plans and specifications shall include the following:

- » Identify the purpose.
- » Document the planned growing season.
- » Layout and location of the high tunnel.
- » Site preparations and the required supporting practices for erosion control, runoff, and vegetative cover according to the requirements of the corresponding conservation practice standard.
- » The planned width and length of the seasonal high tunnel.
- » Statement that the seasonal high tunnel was installed per the manufacturer's recommendations.
- » List of all material used and material specifications.
- » Procedure and timing to remove or roll up to high tunnel cover prior to inclement weather conditions.
- » Procedure and timing to add or replace shade cloth for protection from the sun for the high tunnel cover.



Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Planner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Purpose: Improve plant health and vigor

**PLANNED PRACTICE LOCATION AND EXTENT**

Contract Identification Number (CIN)	Tract Number	Field Number	Growing Season	Units Planned	Size Installed (Length x Width)	Units Applied (NRCS USE ONLY)

Location map and siting criteria are defined in the case file.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION AND VERIFICATION**

Practice applied is field verified by: \_\_\_\_\_ on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Before payment is made, the following information is required to be in the case file:

Photographs of constructed seasonal high tunnel that must include:

- Statement “Photo was taken in the field by (enter name)”
- Date photo was taken in the field
- Statement of what the photo represents if it needs clarification

The seasonal high tunnel was installed per the manufacturer’s recommendations and all materials used and material specifications are documented.

Field verification is documented and a certified planner verified “as installed” this practice meets NRCS standards and specifications.

**Practice Certification (NRCS USE ONLY)**

I certify this practice (Seasonal High Tunnel System) as installed is complete and meets the applicable Wisconsin NRCS Conservation Practice Standard and all applicable practice specifications. Any changes to the original practice design have been approved and are red lined and documented on the original practice design “as installed.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certified Planner (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

