

A long, arched high tunnel covered in plastic, with rows of green plants growing inside. The tunnel is supported by a metal frame and extends far into the distance. The plants are arranged in neat rows, and the ground between them is covered with dark mulch. The overall scene is a well-maintained agricultural facility.

**PRESENTING.....
HIGH TUNNELS!**

1980's

- Bare ground production
- Different customers
- 3 week season
- However 1 rain during the 3 weeks could really hurt revenue for the year.

1990's

- Black Plastic
- 7 week season
- Very different customer than those in 1980's.
- Black plastic forces berries to produce earlier therefore you have to frost protect more.





2000

- Started forcing berries to produce in the fall.
- We used row covers for frost protection in the winter months
- There was still potential to extend the season even further
- This allowed us to produce berries from Nov. 1 – Dec. 25th



2005

- We put up our first High Tunnel (1 acre)
- The tunnels not only give you frost protection but rain protection as well
- This allowed us to produce strawberries from November 1-January 15 and from March 1-June 10
- Growing season is now 25-26 weeks each year



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2009

- We added a second Tunnel (2 acres)
- We no longer grow winter berries under row covers.
- This time we focused on improving the strength of the structure
- Heavy Snow loads or ice

To the Present.....

- Tunnels and row covers for frost protection.
- Growing season is now 25-26 weeks long.
- The peak is still in late April and early May but we offer strawberries from November 1-January 1 and March 1-June 1



Disadvantages

- Price of tunnels
- Higher Management
- Wind
- Snow/Ice
- Plant population/ acre
- Disease/Pest

Tunnel Structure

- Top bracing on each loop (nylon rope → wire → metal pipe)
- In our newest edition of tunnels we have much more strength
- This allows us to keep the plastic on when a big snow is forecasted







Advantages

- Extended Growing Season
- Marketing
- More holidays
- Previously just mother's day
- Now
 - Easter
 - Mother's Day
 - Memorial Day
 - Thanksgiving
 - Christmas
 - New Year's

Advantages cont.

- Rain Protection
- Cold Weather protection
- Good Quality
- Labor Management







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Where to get Materials?

- Tunnels
 - 1st acre of tunnels purchased from Haygrove
 - 2nd acre purchased from Jaderloon (Irmo, SC)
- Tractors
 - Comer Equipment (York, SC)
 - 4wd and 4ft center is necessary
- Plastic Layer
 - Reidick Fumigants



Just a quick note

- Sunday morning January 3, 2010
 - 12 degrees Fahrenheit
- Monday morning January 4, 2010
 - 11 degrees Fahrenheit
- Monday morning January 4, 2010 at 9:00 we picked fresh strawberries!!!



Come by and see us Sometime!
Or visit us at www.bushnvinefarm.com

Questions?