



# **HIGH TUNNEL 101**

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**How many of you have a high tunnel already?**

**The rest of you, are you thinking about a high tunnel?**

## Tubing diameters.



From left to right.

2 3/8" 13 gauge

1.9" 15 gauge

1.5" 17 gauge

1.315" 14 gauge

What does gauge mean?

13 gauge, 13 pieces makes 1" or 1/13 of an inch.

**So what does the gauge or diameter of the tubing have to do with a high tunnel?**

**A bunch!**

**Each time you increase the diameter by  $1/3$ , you increase the strength by 66%!**

**What are some other things I need to look at before buying a high tunnel?**

## **Bracing of tunnel**

**Sidewall**

**Roof bracing**

**Roof truss braces**

## **Ventilation**

**Roll up?**

**Drop curtain?**

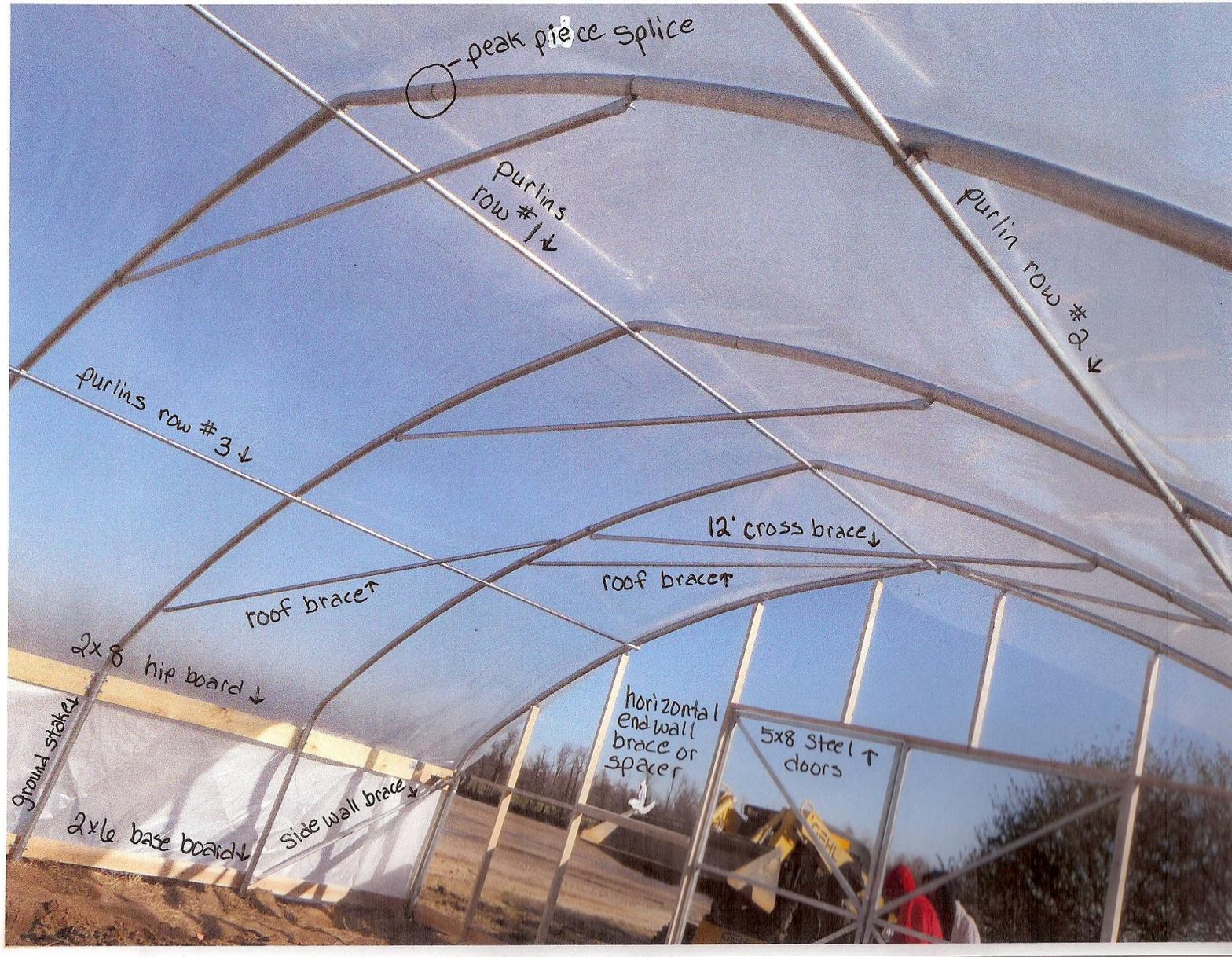
**Ridge vent?**

## **Site selection**

# Bracing of tunnel Sidewall



# Roof bracing



## Roof truss braces





2014/10/16

# Ventilation

Roll up?



# Drop curtain?



## Ridge vent?



# Site selection

How much of a grade can I use for my high tunnel?

**Width, no more than 5%.**

**30' would be 1 1/2' max.**

**Length, no more than 3%.**

**In a 96' tunnel, max would be 3'.**

**Trees. Keep tunnel 20-35' + tree height away from tree.**

**From a building, 10' min. 20' would be better.**



# Construction tips















2016/04/14



2016/04/13

# Crops that can be grown in a high tunnel

Tomatoes



Peppers



**Figs**



**Summer or fall crops**



**Cut flowers**



# Ordering you high tunnel kit

- 1. Select a good site for your tunnel. How large a tunnel can you build here?**
- 2. What crops do you plan on growing? Do you need roll up or drop down curtains?**
- 3. Pick a good supplier. How is this supplier support? Is there support available by phone or email, to help you when you need a question answered?**
- 4. Get your tunnel ordered. Most suppliers are booked out several weeks until they get your tunnel kit together.**
- 5. Are you going to build it yourself? If not, get in contact with a building crew to see what they will charge you to build it. Crews can be booked up for weeks or months with work. So plan ahead.**
- 6. When you get your grant from NRCS, order your tunnel right away. Do not wait. We have had some people wait until the 10 to 11 month to order. This does not work. You could loose your grant.**

# Questions?

High tunnel & greenhouse insurance  
Specialty Risk Insurance  
Doug Collard, 417-359-5470

