

So you want a hoop house or high tunnel...

Answering these questions below may help you focus on what you want to get out this investment

What do you want to use the hoop house for?

What other benefits or values might it bring to your site or community?

What challenges might you experience?

What is your budget?

High Tunnel Styles, Sizes + Features

The Basics

High tunnels come in varying lengths, usually in increments of 4 feet; varying widths, starting at 10 feet wide; and heights of at least 6 feet. The shape of the roof of a high tunnel can be Quonset (rounded) or Gothic (peaked).

Designs for end walls can be very simple and inexpensive (using plywood or plastic) or more elaborate and durable, with different door sizes and types to choose from. Side walls and other ventilation features, such as ridge or peak vents can range from manual, mechanical, or automated.

Lastly, depending on your budget and goals, there are numerous advanced features you can add to a high tunnel, like automation, irrigation systems, and fans. Or, you can decide to make a DIY tunnel using salvaged parts and putting in some extra labor.

Take some time to look through one or two of the high tunnel supplier websites listed below for styles, costs, features, etc.

Recommended Suppliers	Reviews from the FSNYC community
FarmTek	Can just order parts; Good customer service and technical assistance; We still reach out to them after several years.
Ledgewood Farm	Powerpoint instructions helpful; Good troubleshooting; Combined shipping with another farm; They know the Northeast U.S. snow load
Farmers Friend	Affordable; Popular; Helpful when troubleshooting.
Rimol Greenhouse Systems	Called salesperson constantly and they were responsive
Nolt's Greenhouse Supplies	Bought all of our high tunnels there

Tunnel Vision Hoops	
Repairs + Replacement Parts	
Johnny's	Can purchase hoop bender for a DIY hoop house
Nolt's Greenhouse Supplies	

What are the top 3 styles and advanced features, if any, that are most important for you/your site/your community to reach your goals?

Site Assessment

Assess the following conditions for a high tunnel at your site using this checklist:

1. High tunnel growing goals and plans:
2. Space Considerations
 - a. Available space (LxW):
 - b. Is the site level or less than 5% grade?
 - c. Did you call Dig Safely NY?
Must be contacted at least two full working days (but no more than 10 working days) before digging. 811 or 1-800-272-4480
 - d. Is the soil well-draining or will you elevate the high tunnel?
 - e. Did you get a soil test for lead and pH? List results here: _____ppm _____pH
3. Orientation
 - a. Sun/Shade: Full sun, partial sun, full shade?
 - b. Wind:
 - c. Physical Accessibility:
4. Water Access:
5. Power Source (if needed):
6. Site ownership/permissions:
7. Who will help with operations and maintenance once the high tunnel is constructed?