

10 FARMING TIPS HOOP HOUSES



- ✦ Unlike greenhouses, hoop houses use **passive heat** from the sun for heating and **natural air movement** for cooling.
- ✦ Select a **level site** with **good drainage**. Consider **shade** from nearby structures and **proximity to water and electrical sources**.
- ✦ If you want to make sure your hoop house is **warm in the winter**, orient your hoop house with the long side running **east to west**.
- ✦ If you want to take advantage of **air currents to cool** your hoop house, orient the hoop house **north to south**.
- ✦ Paint all wood with a **durable exterior paint** to protect it from the sun and extend longevity.
- ✦ Secure west-facing doors to **prevent damage during spring winds**, and consider installing a wind break to protect your hoop house.
- ✦ **Get your water tested**, since dissolved salts in irrigation water can accumulate without rainwater to help move salts away from crops.
- ✦ **Use a minimum/maximum thermometer** to monitor hoop house temperatures, and keep records to determine the best times for growing.
- ✦ **Consider your crop's pollination needs**. If your crop needs pollinators to set fruit, ensure your hoop house can be opened to give them access.
- ✦ **Monitor for pests** that may flourish in hoop house conditions. Establishing **beneficial insect populations** can help lower pest numbers.