



MSU Agriculture Innovation Day

Focus on Fruit and Vegetable Technologies

Can High Tunnels Make Berry Growing More Profitable?

Tunnels can help growers meet buyer demands for consistent volumes of high quality berries over extended periods.

Extended harvest periods - Tunnels retain heat early and late in the season

Improved fruit quality - Tunnels exclude rain and suppress fungal diseases

Tunnels often increase berry yields.

Raspberries benefit most from tunnels

In-ground plants exhibit improved yields, quality and season length

Potted raspberries produce high yields and quality and avoid soil limitations and diseases.

Strawberries may also benefit from tunnels but have not been fully researched in Michigan.

Day-neutral varieties can achieve early and late harvest but production is often low during hot weather.

A raised "table-top" substrate system is being tested as a means of producing high yields and quality while improving harvest efficiency.

Blackberries are marginally hardy in Michigan, but may benefit from tunnels

High quality varieties may benefit from the increased heat in tunnels

Rotating-cross-arm trellis has potential for over-wintering cold sensitive varieties.

High tunnels are

Expensive to purchase and manage

Can be damaged by wind events

Can yield high value fruit that are profitable



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