



*Fifteen Years of Experience
with High Tunnel
Raspberry Production:
What I've learned!*

**Shirley Todd Kline
Happy Valley Berry Farm**

Structures

- Higher and wider is better
 - Worth it to pay for extended ground posts
 - Better ventilation
- Straight sides important
- Shading
 - At least 30%, but as much as 50%, depending on location
 - Reduces heat
 - Prevents sunburned berries



Automation

- Your management time is valuable
- You can't be there all the time so.....
- Use as much as possible
 - Thermostatically controlled roll up sides and/or automated peak ventilation
 - Irrigation timers for drip

Weed Control

- Use landscape fabric for walk areas.
- Also controls emergence of new canes to cultivated areas, not the walk ways!
- Landscape fabric lasts – 15 years and counting.

Varieties

- Primocane varieties
 - Early, mid season and late
 - Fruited twice
 - Nearly continuous harvests from late May to November with a dip in late July to early August in my area of Southern NJ
 - Requires a mid summer pruning of the overwintered canes that completed their second fruit production.

Planting

- Plant as early as possible
 - In a high tunnel, you can do this earlier than outdoors!
- Want maximum growth before hot weather sets in

My Major Problems

- Mites
 - Use predatory mites, but the last two years – not worked as well.
- Voles
 - Big problem in sandy soils without many stones.
 - Solution:
 - Baits placed in runs
 - Noise – irritation device that repels the animal

Advantages

- Extended harvest period
- High quality berries with better shelf life than berries produced outdoors
- Ability to grow without the use of pesticides (important for my market)
- Ability to harvest in any weather

Advantages

Reduced insect pressure

No spotted wing Drosophila problem on my farm

Very little Japanese beetle problem

Little or no disease, especially gray mold

Tunnels change the environment so it is more favorable for crop development and less favorable for disease development.

Disadvantages

- Summer pruning
 - The last thing you really want to do in July is prune raspberries in a high tunnel when you have a million other things to do!

Essential

- Keep picked berries shaded
- Place in refrigerated cooler as soon as a flat is picked

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