SEASONAL HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM FOR CROPS

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 798

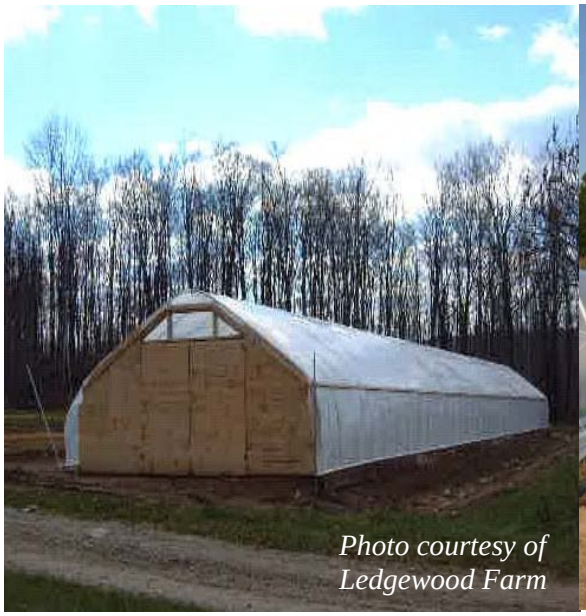


Photo courtesy of Ledgewood Farm

Photo byTim Coolong, University of Kentucky

SEASONAL HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM FOR CROPS

Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops is a high tunnel, seasonal polyethylene covered structure with no electrical service or automated heating/ventilation system that is used to cover crops to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of this practice is to improve plant quality, improve soil quality, improve water quality by reduced nutrient and pesticide transport, improve air quality through reduced transportation inputs and reduce energy use through local consumption.

This practice applies to cultivated cropland where extension of growing season is needed due to climate conditions and crops can be grow in the natural soil profile. Permanently raised beds may be installed to improve soil condition, fertility, and agri-ability access, but does not apply to crops grown above ground or in pots.

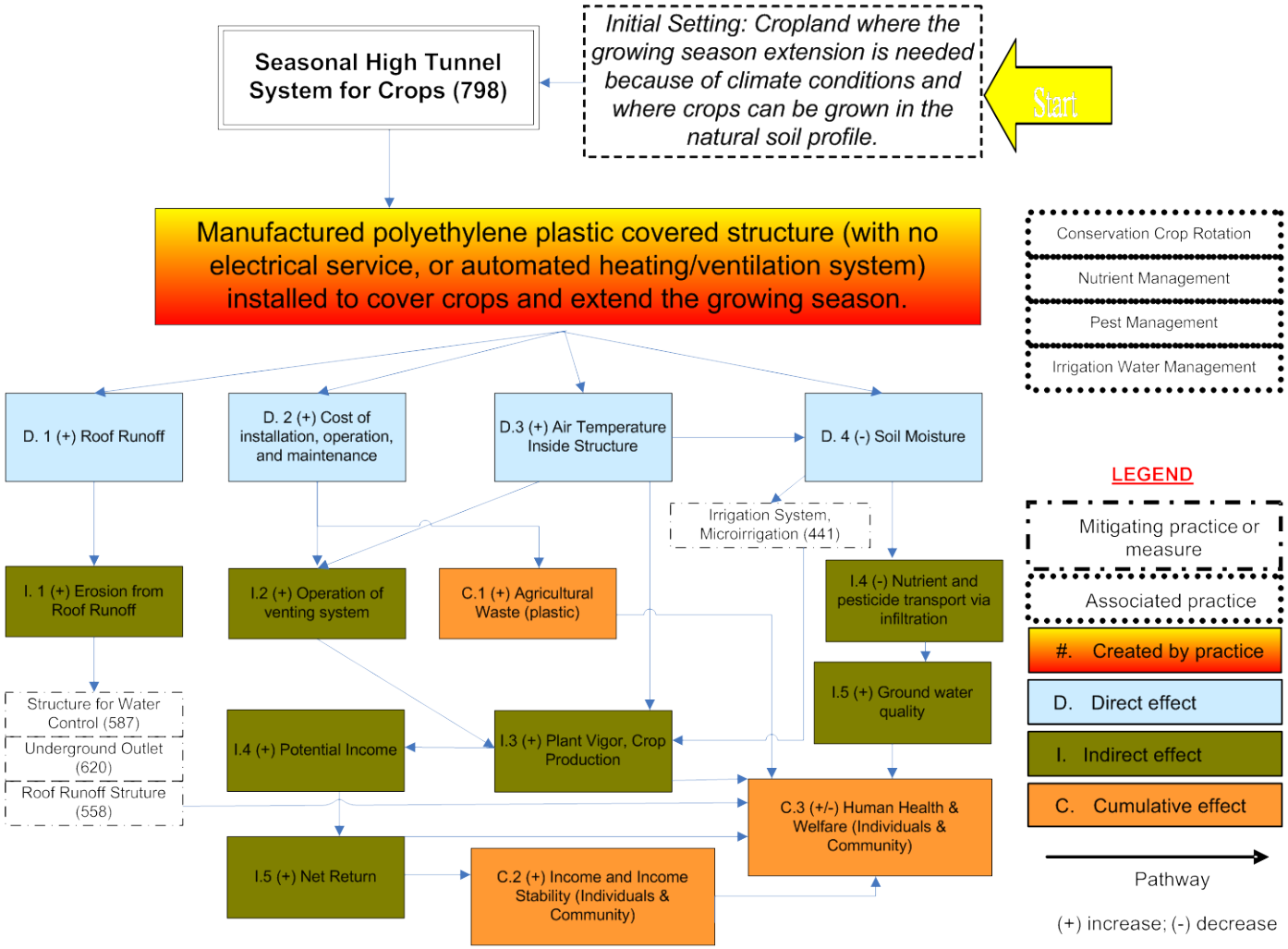
COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

The practice is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices.

- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Irrigation Water Management
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Roof Runoff Structure

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and Job Sheets for further information.

The following page identifies the conservation effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.



The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.