High Tunnels are steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures for crops that can extend the growing season by several weeks in Maine. High Tunnels create a protected environment that provides warmer temperatures for heat-loving crops or early- and late-season crops.

The micro-climate produced inside the High Tunnel tends to produce crops of higher quality and can produce higher yields than field-grown crops. Crops must be planted in the ground in High Tunnels, not in containers.

*High Tunnels are not greenhouses.* While both can depend on plastic covering and often use heaters to raise temperatures within the structures, plants in the High Tunnel Systems grow directly in the soil. Also, unlike a greenhouse, a High Tunnel System is considered a temporary structure.

**Benefits**

High Tunnels Systems may assist producers in addressing a recourse concern by:

- Improving Plant Quality
- Improving Air Quality through Reduced Transportation Inputs
- Reducing Energy Use by providing Consumers with a Local Source of Fresh Produce

For more information on High Tunnel Systems or eligibility, call NRCS-Maine at (207) 990-9100, visit your nearest NRCS field office, or visit us online at [www.me.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.me.nrcs.usda.gov)