



Clean-up: An Ounce of Prevention

Before taking a well-earned Winter rest, take time to properly clean your high tunnel structures to help ensure a clean-start and reduce the likelihood of sheltering pests or diseases that could harm next seasons crops.

Regardless of the time of year or whether the tunnel is being cleared in preparation for a new crop or an end-of-season rest, Elsa Sanchez, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Horticultural Systems Management at Penn State University and Scott Diloreto, Penn State Greenhouse Manager, share details about the importance of sanitation as part of any IPM strategy in their article, ***Sanitation When Transitioning High Tunnels.***

<https://extension.psu.edu/sanitation-when-transitioning-high-tunnels>

In addition, Margaret Tuttle McGrath with the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University, shares ten key factors in using sanitation to control disease in her article, ***Sanitation: An Important Component of Disease Management in High Tunnels.*** A few basics include controlling weeds, cleaning tables and other non-soil surfaces, use disinfectants as needed, maintain hygienic practices like hand washing and removing field soil from shoes before entering tunnel structures. The article also contains suggestions for types of disinfectants as well as cleaning solutions that may be used on the structure itself. Note: Due to the variety of plastics available for high tunnels, it may be best contact the manufacturer for their recommended cleaning methods.

<http://www.ncipmc.org/glvwg/pdfs/HighTunnelSanitation-Diseases-2010.pdf>

