

McPhail Farms



Greenhouse Business Experiences
CEAC 2013

Our Family Experiences



Owning and operating the greenhouse and farm is a family effort.



Getting Started



- Met Dr. Merle Jensen
- Attended our first CEAC short course in 2004
- Talked with other greenhouse owners
- Have attended 6 CEAC classes

Greenhouse Construction

- Ordered greenhouse 6 months in advance
- Prepped the site (excavation, natural gas lines, water, etc.)
- Began building in September of 2004
- Took 4 months to build



- Initially built a 10,000 sq. ft greenhouse (2 growing bays of 4,000 sq. ft. each)
- Operated with 2 bays for 4 years
- Added additional 4,000 sq. ft. bay in 2010
- Current total growing space is 12,000 sq. feet

Greenhouse Details

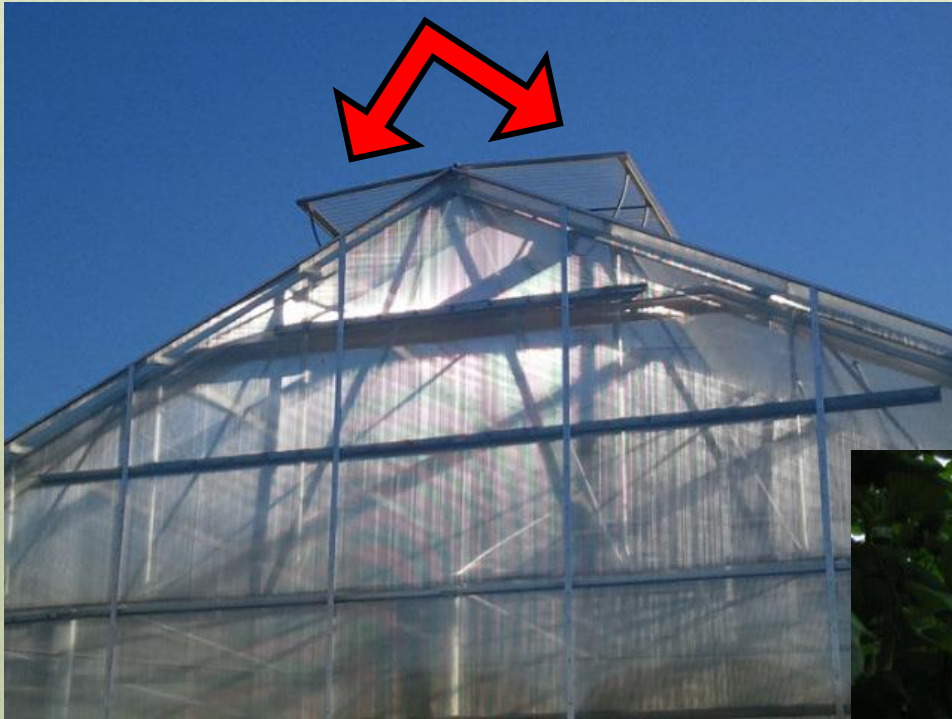
TYPE OF GREENHOUSE

- Agratech Greenhouse
- A-Frame Solar Light house
- Double poly carbonate sidewalls
- Single plastic corrugated roof
- Compacted sand floor with white perforated material on floor to reflect sunlight



Greenhouse Expansion





The newest bay has a double vented roof, which has been a huge improvement for the greenhouse

Greenhouse uses all natural ventilation and cooling



Preparation for Planting



ORDERING SUPPLIES

- Grow bags – organic coconut coir
- Clips
- Order plants 3 months in advance
- Fertilizer

CLEANING

- Bleaching walls and floors between growing seasons
- Soak clips in bleach
- Adding sidewalks to keep greenhouse clean



Planting Day





Growing Season

- Growing season is typically from January to mid-December
- Plant tomatoes earlier than mini cucumbers since they grow faster
- Harvest April 1 for beefsteak tomatoes, cherry tomatoes and cucumbers
- Geographic location greatly impacts growing season





