DIY SCREENHOUSES

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A screen house is an effective tool to minimize pest from damaging crops which may result in reduced productivity, crop and financial losses. It serves as a physical barrier which puts the pest at a disadvantage. Building a screen house does not have to be costly. Construction of a screen house using home improvement store supplies may help minimize pest populations, reduce pesticide applications and increase production yields. A return on investment can be seen within a few crop cycles, depending on the crop and other external conditions.

- **INSTRUCTIONS**
- Locate an area suitable for the non-permanent screen house structure. The structure can be expected to last anywhere from 4-5 years depending on the environmental conditions.
- Properly prepare the land (level, till, grade, etc.) where the screen house will go as the structure may impede subsequent large equipment use.
- The design of the house will ultimately be based on the dimensions of the screen, construction material and your targeted crop.
- Measure out an area, allowing for overhang of the screen material. Align rebar in a straight line.
- Rebar should be pounded into the soil to a depth of 18-24 inches.

The house can be adjusted to be taller or wider. Adjustments to the house dimensions need to be re-calculated based on these changes.
- Secure the rebar and electrical conduits together with the connector and reinforce the poles with the plastic coated electrical wire for added support.
- To minimize tears in screen, avoid constant contact of rough metal surfaces with the screen as the house moves with the wind.
- If trellis crops are planned, installation of support post may be installed before the screen goes over the unit.
- Drape the screen over the hoops made out of conduit and rebar.
- Secure the screen down with soil, weed mat clips, PVC pipe connectors or greenhouse wiggle wire at the base of the house.
- Ends can be secured down using left over pipes or soil to prevent pests from entering the unit.
- Doors can also be constructed on the ends to allow for easy access.
- Be aware, pollination may be compromised with the screen house unit so hand pollination or access doors may be installed to allow beneficial insects to enter the unit.