

Initiative Name and Acronym: National Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative (NSHTI)

Initiative Description/Summary: Through the National Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative (NSHTI), NRCS will assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The initiative has the potential to assist producers in addressing a resource concern by improving plant quality, improving soil quality, and reducing nutrient and pesticide transport.

Note: The seasonal high tunnel practice is gaining recognition in many populated or urbanized areas. NRCS must consider and support all producers who submit an application regardless of where their operation is located. It is important to note that general program eligibility is not limited based on zoning. There is a common misconception that areas zoned as “urban” or “residential” (or other similar zoning types) are not eligible based on the zoning classification. However, while the applicant and land may meet program eligibility requirements, zoning may restrict a participant from installing certain practices. Participants who carry out conservation practices are responsible for obtaining the authorities, rights, easements, permits, or other approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practices in keeping with the applicable laws and regulations.

As in previous years, the maximum practice extent for a Seasonal High Tunnel (798) eligible for a practice payment shall be five percent of an acre (2178 square feet) per agricultural operation. This can be a single or multiple structures for a maximum of five percent of one acre coverage.

- Approved Land Types – States must assign the following land uses as eligible for this initiative:

Required Land Use
Cropland only

Note: No additional land types may be added or used to support this initiative.

- Approved Natural Resource Concerns:

Soil Erosion
Sheet and Rill

Soil Condition
Organic Matter Depletion

Water Quality
Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water

Plant Condition
Plants not Adapted or Suited
Productivity, Health and Vigor

Note: No additional resource concerns may be added or used to support this initiative.

- Core Practices Required to be offered for this initiative:

Practice Name	Practice Code
Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops	798

- Supporting Practices that States may offer to support this initiative:

Practice Name	Practice Code
Critical Area Planting	342
Diversion	362
Grassed Waterway	412
Irrigation System, Micro irrigation	441
Roof Runoff Structure	558
Subsurface Drain	606
Surface Drainage, Field Ditch	607
Underground Outlet	620

Note: Conservation Activity Plans may not be offered as part of this initiative. The Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798) practice may not be offered in any other subaccounts except for "FY 13 Organic Transition" and "FY 13 Certified Organic".