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Agri-Plastic Report

American Society for Plasticulture



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Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-Op Grower Hosts Open House (*Lancaster Farming*, Aug. 11, '07). "Using unconventional methods, Lancaster County's most traditional farmers are teaming up to get in on one of today's hot trends: organic foods. Amish farmer Aaron Zook hosted an open house recently at the family farm near Leola (PA). . . . He grows heirloom tomatoes, melons and Romaine lettuce outdoors and in gutter-connected high tunnels for crop protection during the growing season. Nearly 100 guests, mostly Plain sect farmers, came to tour the tunnels and hear several presentations. Ralph Cramer of Haygrove Tunnels explained different types of structures and 'what they can and can't do.'"

Greenhouse industry highlighting co-operative efforts. An article in the Canadian publication, *The Grower* (Sept. '07), notes, "The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG) . . . have prepared a document that highlights how 'government action can support our \$1.1 billion greenhouse farming industry.' . . . The document highlights all of the key issues impacting greenhouse operations (energy, labour, taxation, market promotion, market access and trade, product safety, leadership, and business risk management) while offering solutions that government can play. . . . The OGVG proposed government solution—'Introduce accelerated capital cost allowance. . . to enable greenhouse farmers to obtain automation equipment to reduce labour intensive tasks; and investing in research to develop enhanced technology to automate manual labour tasks.'"

What's growing on . . . in Companies (*American Nurseryman*, Sept. 1, '07). "Ball Horticultural Co. . . . has selected Summit Plastic Co . . . as its exclusive distributor of biodegradable, compostable pots for the Ball Horticultural Circle of Life sustainable horticulture program. Circle of Life pots, made of rice hulls, are available in six sizes. . . . Matching filling trays are available for each size. The pots can simply be crushed and tossed in the home gardener's compost pile to completely degrade within a few months, eliminating waste. . . . Summit Plastic is a manufacturer of plastic containers and trays used in the nursery industry.

High tunnel pays farmer with off-season tomatoes (*Vegetable Grower News*, Oct. '07). "Jason Mitchell . . . , 25 and three years out of Delaware Valley College with a bachelor's degree in horticulture, has farmed all this life, working for his father and uncle on their 365-acre fruit and vegetable farm. . . but this spring, he and his wife Tracey embarked on a venture on their own 4 acres, putting up a 28- by 200-foot Haygrove Solo high tunnel and using it to grow tomatoes. After six weeks, he said the four rows of 530 trellised plants had generated enough money to pay for the tunnel, which cost just under \$5,900. . . . Mitchell's new tunnel is part of Haygrove's new Solo Pre-Pack. . . . the new Solo system is an effort to bring a smaller, affordable tunnel to smaller producers. Until this year. . . the tunnels were sold in a three-bay configuration of a half-acre size minimum The new Solo system comes as a kit . . . to be assembled by the purchaser."

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