

COMPARATIVE COSTS OF GREENHOUSE CONSTRUCTION¹

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In recent years the greenhouse industry in the northeast has grown at a rapid rate. In some states such as Connecticut, it is the most rapidly expanding agricultural industry.

To help the grower who is building his first greenhouse or the grower who is expanding, a summary of current greenhouse construction costs may be beneficial. The following table lists some of the various types of construction and the approximate cost of the structure and labor to erect it. The cost of the structure includes delivery.

The cost of the environmental control system is about the same for all types of structures. The systems described here are automatic and have remote sensing devices.

<i>Ventilation</i> — Fans with shutters, thermostat and housing	\$.60-.80/sq. ft.
<i>Heating</i> — Oil or gas fired hot air	.60-.80/sq. ft.
Oil or gas fired steam or hot water.	.75-1.00/sq. ft.
<i>Electricity</i> — Materials and labor	.15-.30/sq. ft.
<i>Water</i> — Materials and labor	.15-.30/sq. ft.

The above values are based on an average installation.

The type of structure that should be purchased depends on many factors, including the crops to be grown, the length of service the grower desires from the structure, the seasons when the greenhouse will be used and the amount of growing space needed. The grower should also consider economic factors such as interest rates, tax rates and maintenance costs. An intelligent decision cannot be made without looking at the long term as well as the short term picture.

	Cost of Structures	<u>\$/Sq. Ft.</u> Erection Labor Cost	Total
Conventional Glass Greenhouse, Concrete Foundation — Galvanized Frame — Truss Roof	4.50-6.00	2.00-2.50	6.50-8.50
Ridge and Furrow Plastic Greenhouse, Concrete Piers — Galvanized Frame	1.90-2.10	1.25-1.75	3.15-4.25
Fiberglass Covered Pipe Arch Greenhouse — Pipe Foundation — 1¼" Galvanized Pipe	1.80-2.10	.20-.40	2.00-2.50
Steel Pipe Arch Greenhouse with Poly Cover — Pipe Foundation — 1¼" Galvanized Pipe	1.10-1.40	.15-.25	1.25-1.65
Rigid Frame Wood Greenhouse with Poly Cover — Wood Post Foundation — Clear Span	.60-.80	.30-.50	.90-1.30

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