



Assembly of the Hanley Style Tunnels



Generally the rebar goes 32" into the ground, do not go deeper, if you can not go that deep, go as deep as you can and that is ok, do not cut the rebar shorter . It is important to ensure that you have the correct amount of inward lean on the anchor rods. If the rods are too vertical, it will be a challenge to get the hoop on. However, if they are leaning too much, they will lose some of their holding power. The rebar should lean in to the mid point between vertical and the angle of the bottom of the hoop. (Approx 10 degrees) The easiest way to determine this is to stand up a hoop beside the spot where the rebar is to go so you can determine the exact lean

The intent is that the base of the structure is 17'0" wide from center to center (of the hoops), and that the hoops are spaced 6' apart (unless you've opted for different spacing). If you stand up a hoop where it is supposed to go, the lean of the ground rods should be half way between where the hoop is standing and vertical.

Be sure to slide the base plate over the rod (see photo) before you begin hammering the rod into the ground, since any burring will make it more



difficult to do later. If the ground is quite uneven, it would be helpful to mark the rods for flat, or use a string line. Insert a safety clasp into the smaller hole of each base plate

Stand all of the hoops on the rods. The only hoops that need to be tied to anything at this point are the 2 end hoops.



You will need 4 T- posts (snow fence posts - generally 48" in length) or other solid posts to be used as your plastic anchoring spot. These are to be installed in pairs and needs to be 10' away from the end hoop. The T-posts should be leaning AWAY from the tunnel on an angle of at least 40 degrees. The pair of posts should be about 4" to 5" apart.

Take a 15' length of rope and tie the end hoop (top center) securely to one of the posts. Do this for both ends. This will prevent the hoop from being pulled laterally when you are tightening up the plastic later.

Before you roll out the plastic, double check the ground for sticks, sharp stones, broken off weeds and other things that could cause problems with the plastic. Make sure that you have adequate help; the more hands the better and faster it will go. The longer it takes, the more your chance of the wind picking up increases. If the wind picks up quite quickly at this point and you feel like you are in over your head, it is best to simply pull the plastic back down to the ground, put some weights on it and wait for a calm day.

A word of caution: If you have never dealt with this size of plastic before a little breeze is greatly magnified by the size of the plastic and is a big deal.



You are now ready to install the plastic.

- Roll the plastic out the length of the tunnel.
- Make sure that you have approximately the same amount of extra on each end.
- Pull the plastic over the side so that it is equal on both sides.

If you are rolling the plastic out over very muddy ground, be sure that when you are pulling the plastic over the tunnel it is in such a way that the muddy marks are on the outside. This will give the rain the opportunity to wash away the mud.



You need to pull the plastic tight lengthwise first and secure it between the double end posts. It is acceptable to slit the plastic down the middle of the extra plastic that goes past the end posts. (Thus, creating 2 smaller tails instead of 1 larger one) When you are tying the plastic to the posts, also wind the rope around the 2 posts so that you pinch the posts together.



The last step is to install the rope.



- You will need 2 ropes and start simultaneously from the left side and right side.
- Make a loop and secure it to the first safety clasp and then the rope goes over to the other side.
- One rope will go in sequence of #1 left, #2 right, #3 left, #4 right, etc. all the way to the end.
- The other rope will go #1 right, #2 left, #3 right, #4 left, etc. to the end.
- Tightening the rope works more uniformly if it is done with 4 people. Team A has #1 left and #2 right, while team B has #1 right, #2 left.
- Each person pulls on the rope and holds until his or her partner has pulled and is holding the next one.

Proper procedure and tension on the rope is critical to the success this type of “greenhouse”. It is the rope which is holding the plastic in place. The plastic is secured lengthwise between 2 stakes which should be 10’ away from the last hoop. Pulling and securing the cover lengthwise first, you will minimize the cover dipping between the hoops.

After the plastic is tight lengthwise, start tightening the ropes simultaneously from both sides. You must do the tightening with 3 progressive passes. With each pass you pull tighter. This will create even dips in the plastic between the hoops.



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