

Winter Production Conference – Box Turtle Farm – 2/2021

How big is the tunnel and can you tell us about the HAF fans?

JH: There are HAF fans. there isn't a big fan at the end of the tunnel. I think what you're seeing is shade cloth secured over the doorway, This tunnel is 198x34. I no longer use the HAF fans.

Thanks Jason! Why aren't you using the HAFs.

JH: The utility cost was \$120 every month for that one house. A couple of them broke. It was a busy time of year and they didn't get replaced. With them off, I didn't have any issues, so I just left them off forever.

Have you had any difficulty with organic certification and using the paper pot transplanter? I have read conflicting news regarding the allowance of the paper pot.

JH: They are now allowed. In 2020, they were approved by the NOSB.

Can the transplanter be used for other crops?

JH: Yes. The cells are small, so you aren't going to plant tomatoes and squash, but, most small crops can be planted this way. It also makes it possible to plant more delicate crops that don't normally transplant well.

David Middleton: The transplanter can be used for other crops such as onions and there are different spacings on the paper pots

what are you doing to care for your soil? Soil amendments and building organic matter?

JH: to maintain fertility, I'm tilling in grass clippings between almost every crop cycle.

He's said he's used 2 planters. Is this the better one? Looks hard to pull and keep straight rows. Has he gotten better with experience?

It seems hard to control the planting row.

JH: Yes, I I have gotten better making straight rows.

How often do you wash your coat? hahaha

JH: Haha. That isn't my normal wash/pack outfit!

JH: Wash room - We were filming with the door open. That cat isn't usually in there. Close that door!

I did wonder about the cat...lol!

From David Middleton to Everyone: 07:02 PM

JH: When I say "I didn't expect it to do anything", that means yield before Christmas. That bed took 70 days from seed to harvest.

250lbs/week in the winter or summer?

JH: yes, until two weeks ago. I'm taking a break now.

Your plastic is insured? Tell us more about that.

JH: The structures are insured. Plastic isn't worth the deductible. We can discuss that after the video.

JH: I fill every hopper for baby kale. that was a mistake.

JH: That is a 285 square foot bed.

Where do you get your seed?

JH: High Mowing Seed first, Johnnys second.

What were the 2 essential oils again?

JH: Those mentioned were cedar and orange. We are also testing lavender, peppermint and lemongrass.

oh boy, if we could use essential oils to keep Japanese Beetles at bay, that would be incredible

JH - Jason Hirtz