

Securing a Poly Tunnel to the ground

Poly tunnels are a great asset on an allotment plot, protecting crops and extending your growing season. They vary in size and price so it can be quite a task to choose the best one for you and your plot. Many people choose the tunnels covered in the green squared plastic covers which can be an excellent starter tunnel and are usually much cheaper than the traditional poly tunnel. However, they don't always come with good ground anchor kits and use lighter weight metal poles, so they are the type most often seen flying around allotment sites ending in a crumpled mess.



To prevent our 3x4 metre poly tunnel from blowing away we decided to do the following.

After the site was prepared and dug over a frame was constructed of 2x4" wood. This was all bits of spare so was painted to preserve it.



Halfway down each side a large bucket was sunk into the ground holding a piece of wood which was screwed to the wooden frame. Once in place the bucket was filled with stones and concrete. When hardened off it was covered with earth. These buckets provide a solid anchor into the ground but can be removed from the site in the future if needed.



The poly tunnel frame was then constructed resting on the wood. Once finished and in place, it was then fixed into position using 15mm copper pipe clips at regular intervals all around the frame.





Once the tunnel was up and the cover on we soon noticed a problem. Our cover was quite loose and although one end of the poly had a frame to hold the door, the bottom end was just cover and it wafted in and out quite considerably. There was also no way of fixing the cover to the frame apart from a couple of Velcro strips at the door end. We felt this was a design fault so decided to make a frame to hold it in place.



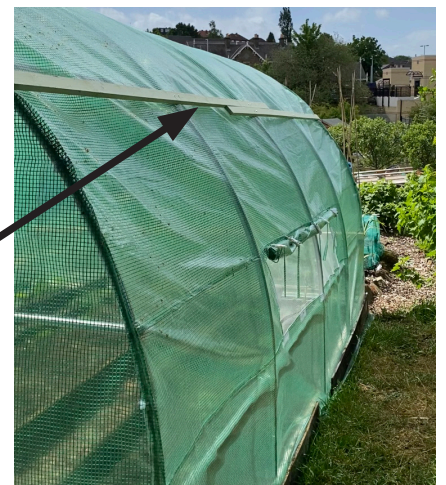
Two pieces of wood were fixed onto the frame on the inside.



Two holes drilled and a cable tie fitted through and round the frame.



On the outside two more pieces of wood were fixed and screwed through to the inside, sandwiching the cover between them. For extra security batons were fixed to long edge sides from the inside using more pipe clips. Around the bottom the cover was dug into the ground and sandwiched between wood screwed to the base frame.



Poly tunnel finally finished and so far it has stood up to 60mph+ winds with barely a shudder! It has been great growing in it, summer and winter.

