

Stepping Into Hoophouse Growing...Should You Do It? (Part 1)

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Share with a person nearby (preferably someone you aren't related to) one thing you've learned so far at this year's Growing Better Conference that you've found helpful.

Who's Here?

Part 1 - What is a hoop house? And what are the Pro's and Con's of growing in a hoophouse.

**Part 2 - Features and Styles of hoophouses.
What you may want to know before you purchase.**

Hoophouse vs. Greenhouse

- Single layer of plastic
- No artificial heat
- Less expensive

- Double layer of plastic or acrylic plastic or even glass
- Artificial heating and possibly cooling
- More Expensive

Hoophouse vs Greenhouse



Moveable / Semi-Permanent



Permanent

Other names for hoop houses

- High Tunnel
- Poly Tunnel
- Grow Tunnel
- Greenhouse - (?)







2010



2012



2012



2012



2023

BETTER
TOGETHER
FARM



Will Rogers



***“Good judgement
come from experience
and a lot of that comes
from bad judgment.”***

-Will Rogers



2 Main Styles



Quonset / Round



Gothic

Photo courtesy



Pro's - Hoophouse

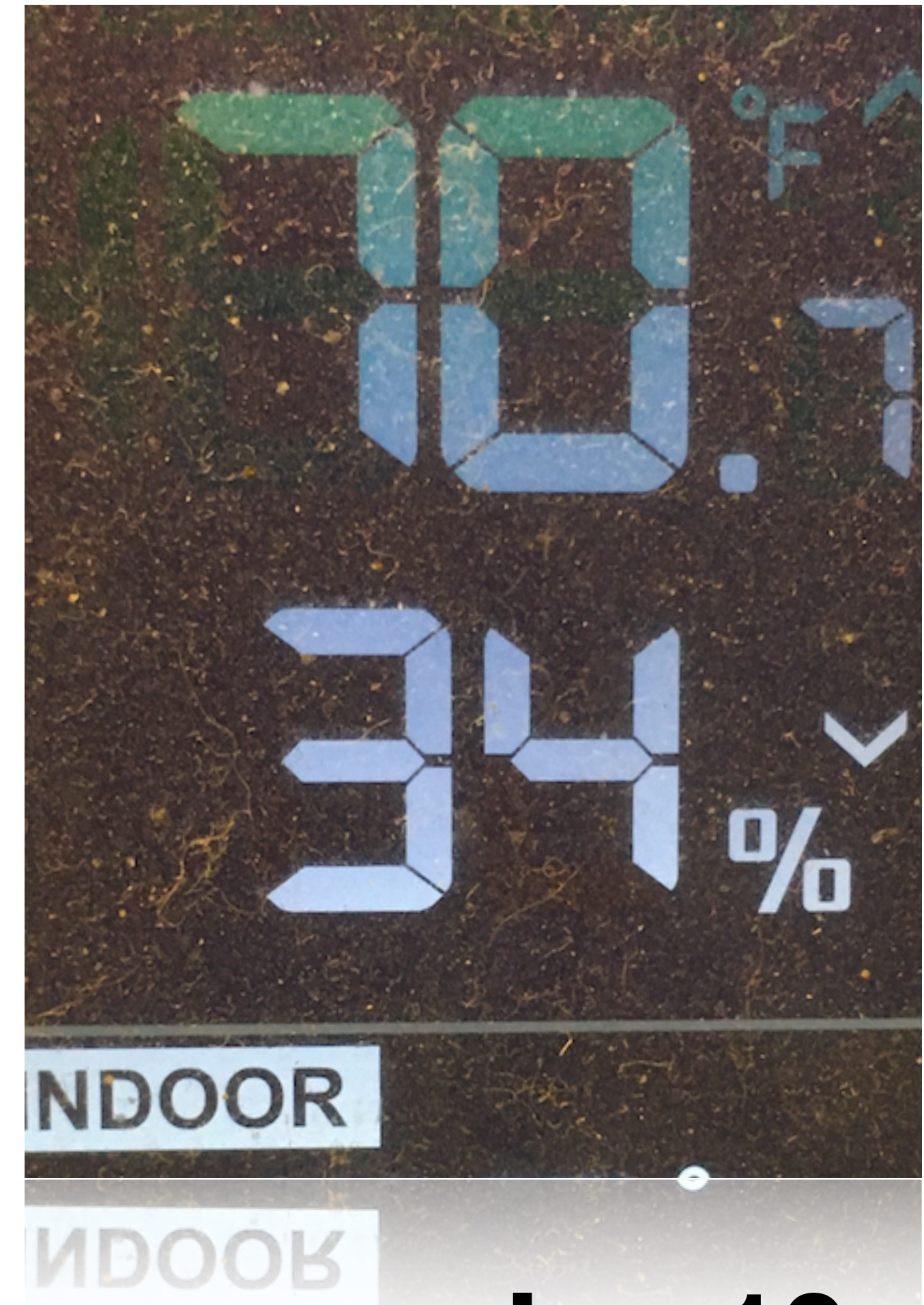
- **Extend growing season:** can help you grow crops for longer each year.



Outside



Inside Tunnel

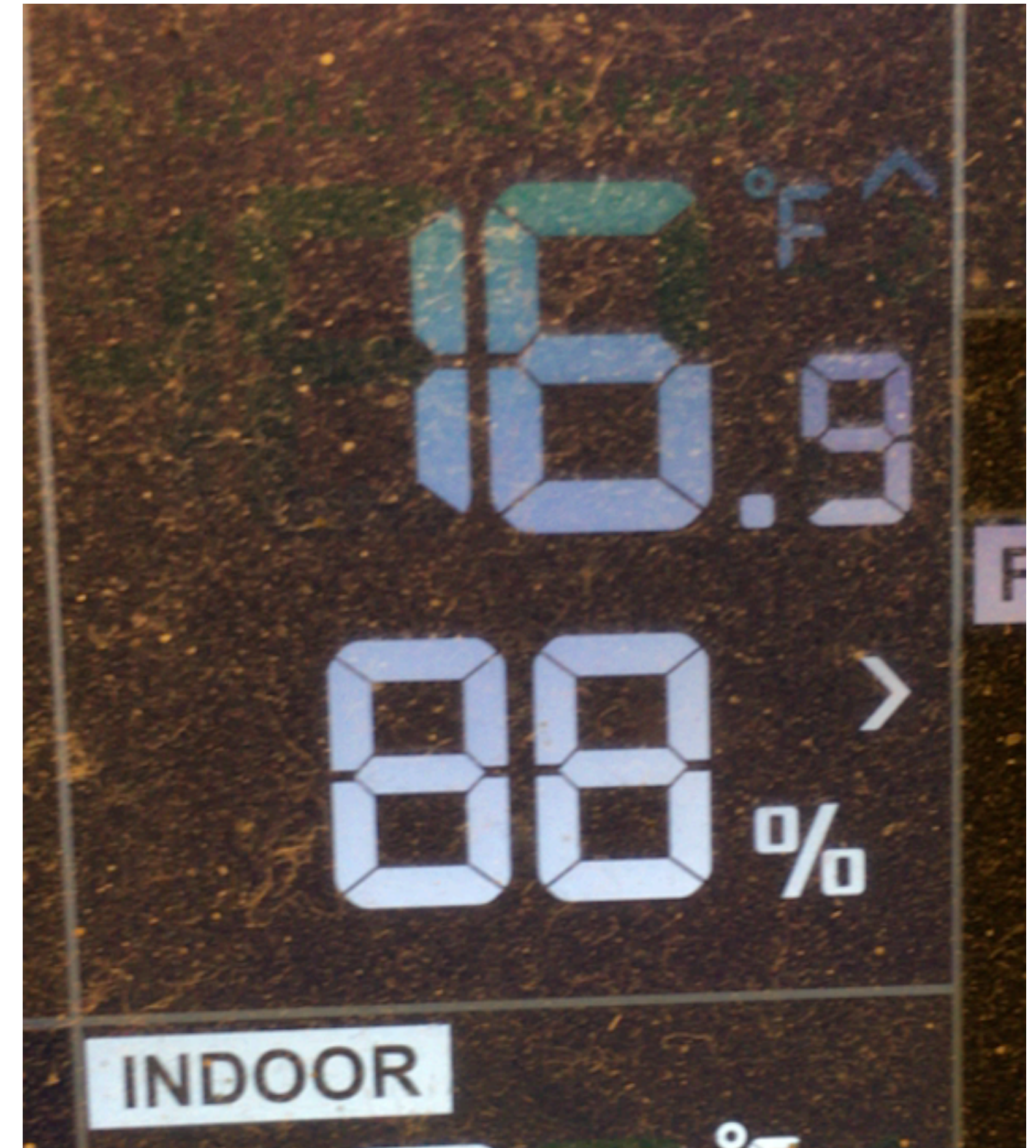


**Jan 10, 2025
2:59 pm**

Outside



Inside Tunnel



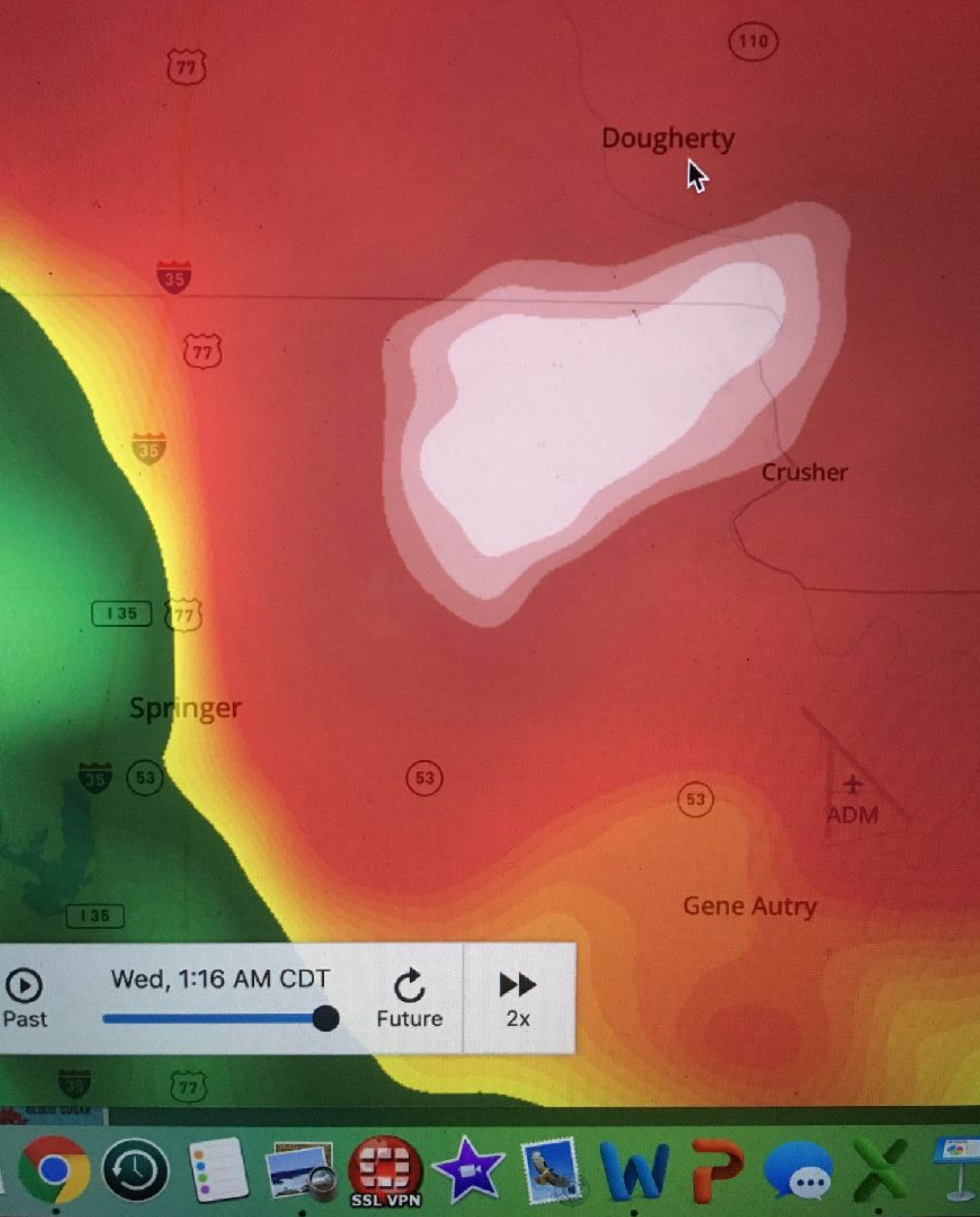
**Jan 11, 2025
7:44 am**



Pro's - Hoophouse

- **Extend growing season:** can help you grow crops for longer each year.
- **Protect plants:** shields plants from extreme weather conditions, such as wind, frost, snow, hail and excessive rain.





April 22, 2020



Jan 9, 2025

Pro's - Hoophouse

- **Extend growing season:** can help you grow crops for longer each year.
- **Protect plants:** shields plants from extreme weather conditions, such as wind, frost, snow, hail and excessive rain.
- **Improve crop quality:** helps prevent disease and pest infestations, and improve the quality and yield of crops.





Pro's - Hoophouse

- **Affordable:** More affordable than traditional greenhouses, especially for small-scale growers.



Hoophouse vs Greenhouse



\$2 - \$6 per square foot



\$10 - \$45 per square foot

Pro's - Hoophouse

- **Affordable:** More affordable than traditional greenhouses, especially for small-scale growers.
- **Flexible:** variety of purposes, such as growing transplants in the spring and overwintering vegetables.





Con's - Hoophouse

- **Pest and Disease Pressure:** The enclosed environment can cause pest pressure from aphids, spider mites and white flies, etc...





Spider Mites



Aphids

Con's - Hoophouse

- **Pest and Disease Pressure:** The enclosed environment can cause pest pressure from aphids, spider mites and white flies, etc...
- **Manipulation / Maintenance:** No automated temp controls - require manual manipulation. Life and death for your plants.





Con's - Hoophouse

- **Vulnerable to Weather Extremes:**
When not constructed adequately can be severely damaged by high wind and heavy snow.





Con's - Hoophouse

- **Vulnerable to Weather Extremes:**
When not constructed adequately can be severally damaged by high wind and heavy snow.
- **Limited Space for Taller Crops:**
The hoop design may not prove to have enough vertical space for certain crops.





Questions?