

Kwik Hoops® Instructions

Congratulations on your new purchase of Kwik Hoops—the most innovative, efficient, and durable low tunnel design on the market!

CAUTION: The ends of the Kwik Hoops are sharp. Be careful when handling.

Kwik Hoops were designed to be used as temporary structures and are not permanently anchored to the ground. They are not intended to support high snow loads and extreme winds, especially when paired with non-breathable covers such as plastic. Exercise caution in extreme wind and weather conditions.

Step 1: Unboxing & Managing Retaining Wires

The best way to keep all the retaining wires from becoming tangled up with one another is to keep them locked onto the hoops for storage, transportation, and installation.

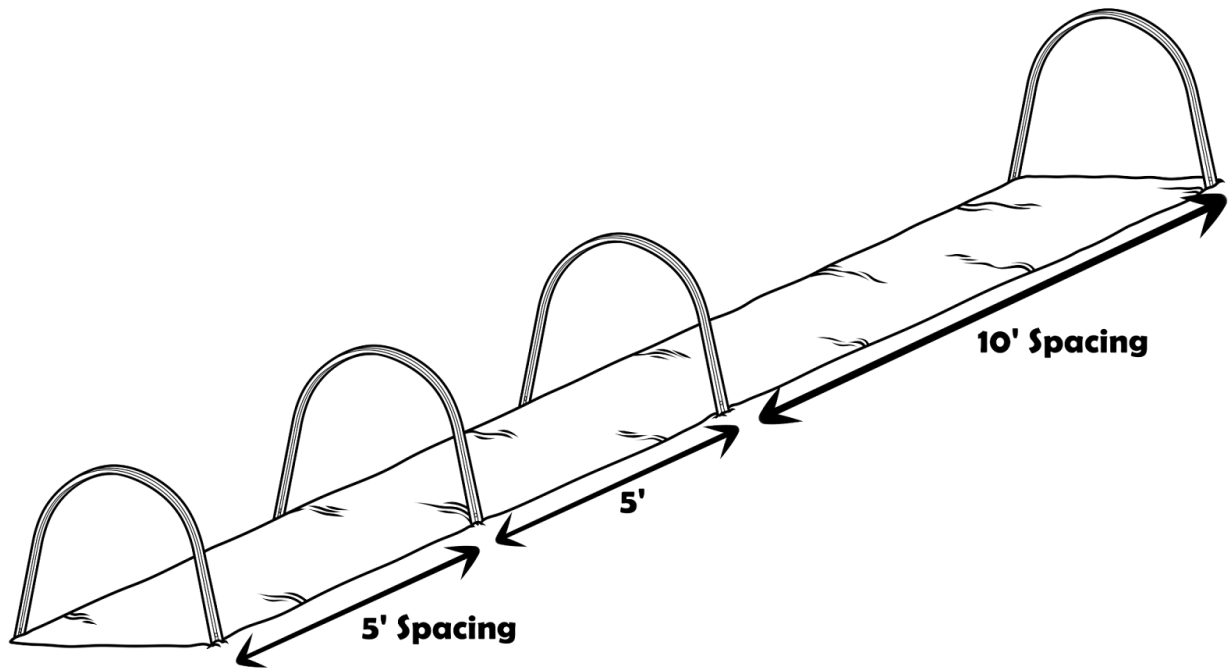
We recommend that when you first unbox your new Kwik Hoops, you keep the retaining wires shrink-wrapped until just before you install them to prevent them from becoming tangled before installation.

Step 2: Spacing & Installing the Kwik Hoops

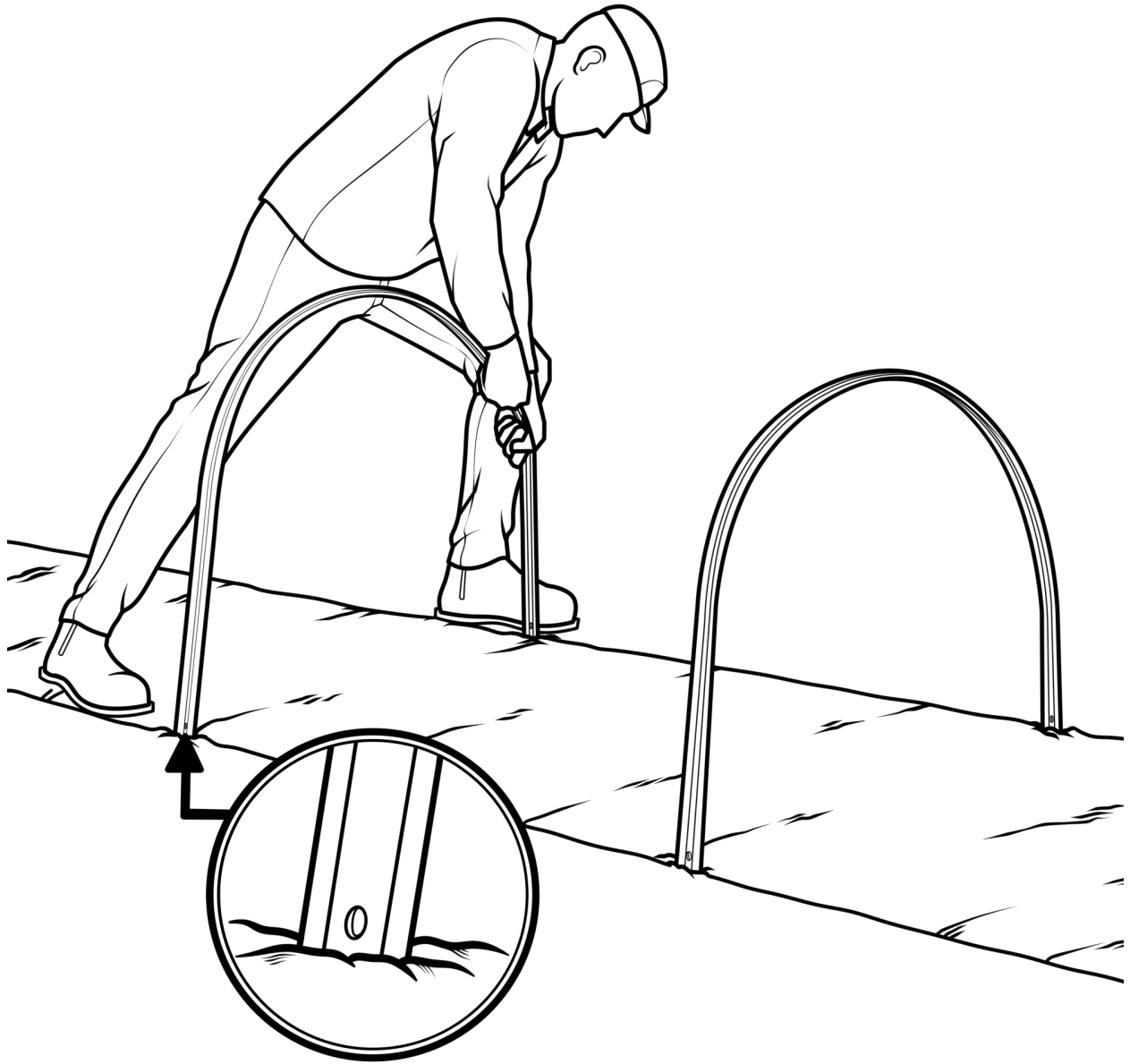
Your growing site and the cover material determine the Kwik Hoops spacing.

- The greater the stress on the tunnel (wind, snow), the closer you need to space them.
- The looser your soil, the closer you need to space them.
- The less permeable the cover (plastic), the closer you need to space them.

For locations with high winds or loose soil, individual hoops should be spaced every five feet in the bed for maximum stability. However, hoops can be spaced up to ten feet apart in more protected settings.



When installing the hoops, push them into the ground on either side of the bed to the point where the pre-punched hole is at ground level.

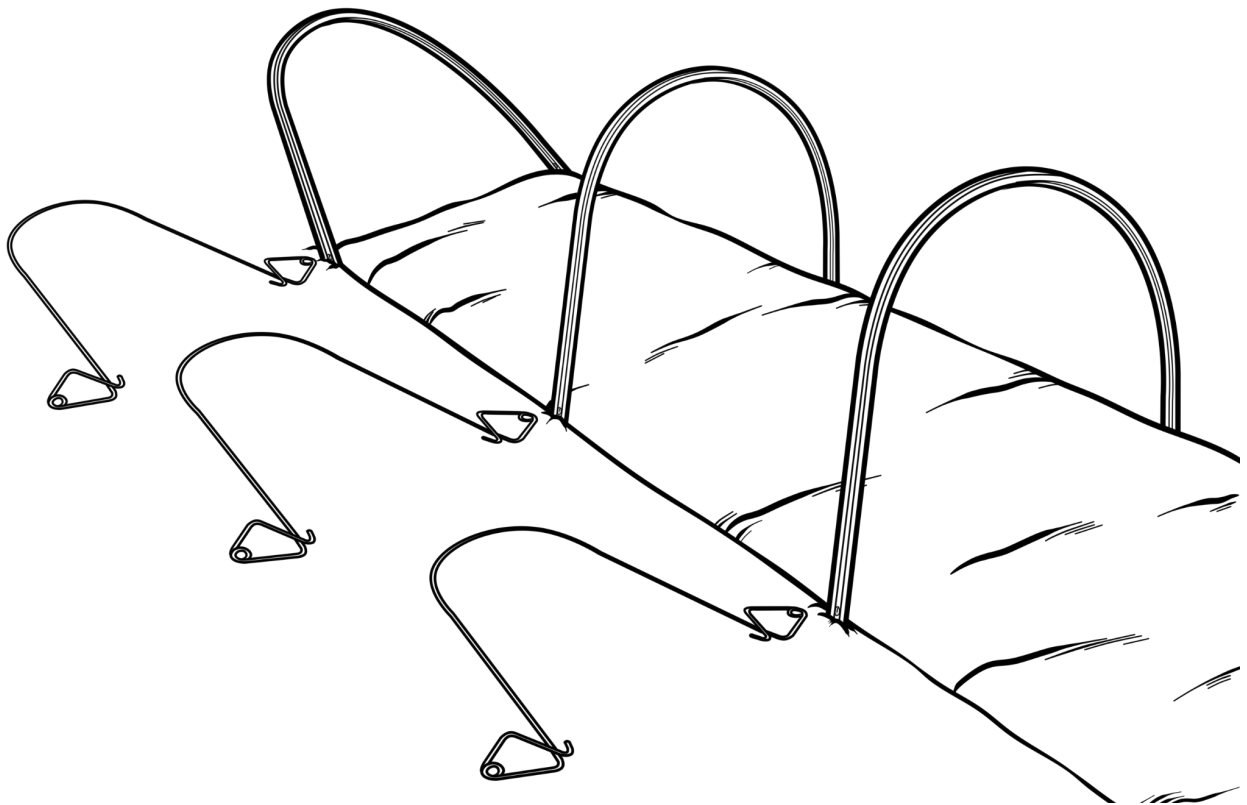


Ensure the pre-punched holes are at or below ground level.

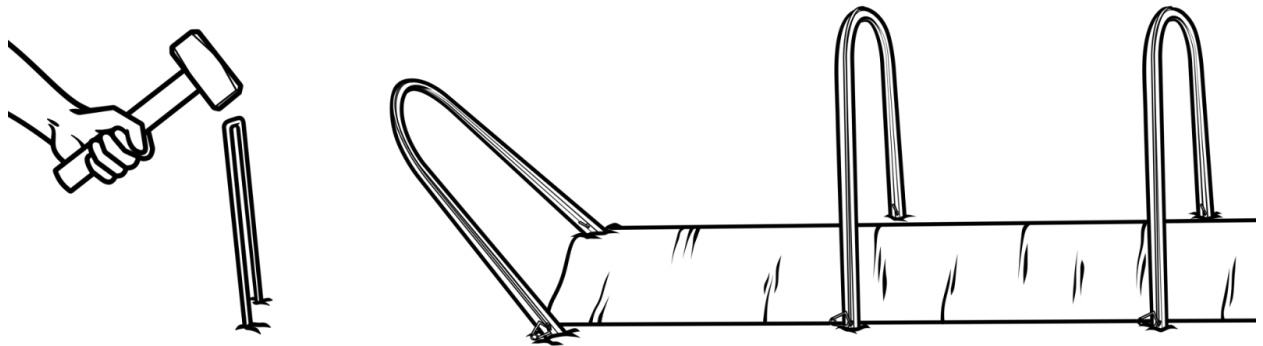
For the hoops at the ends of the bed, angle them away from the bed at a fifteen-degree angle for added strength when pulling the cover tight.



After installing the Kwik Hoops on a bed, remove the shrink-wrap from the bundle of retaining wires, taking care not to let them tangle, and lay one on the ground next to each hoop. This step will prevent tangling and have them strategically positioned to install after pulling on the cover.

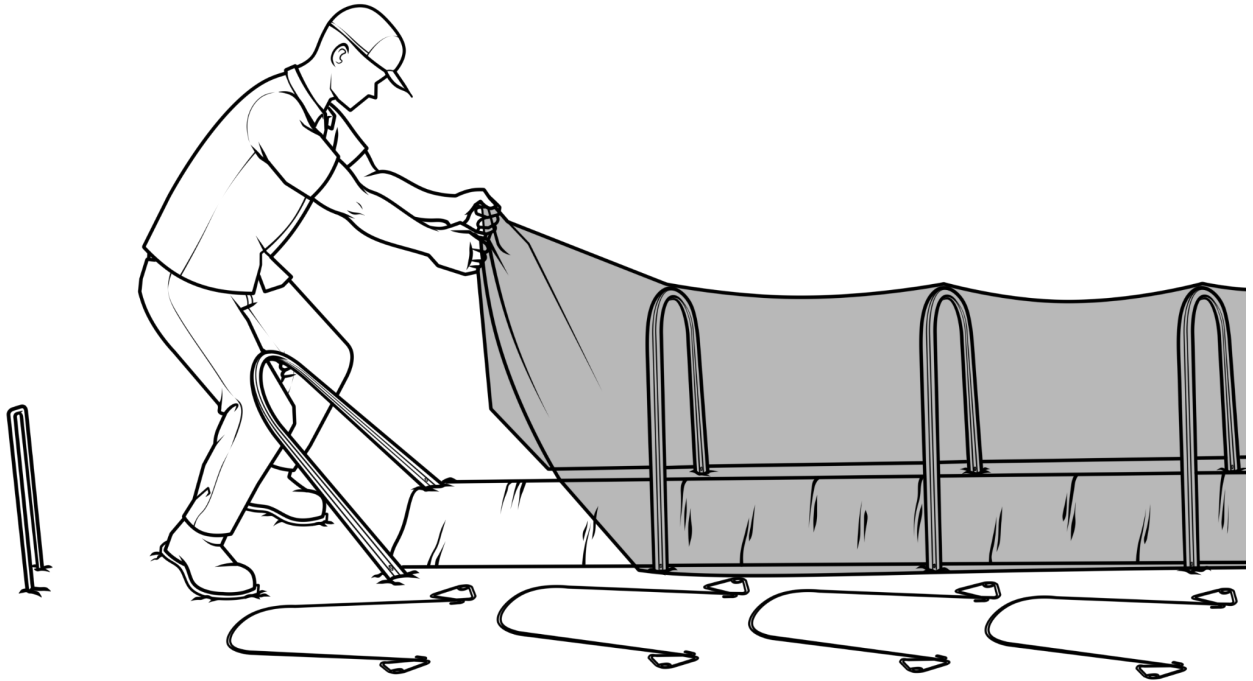


Next, hammer in a U-stake a couple of feet from each end of the bed. The stake will be used to tie off the ends of the fabric.

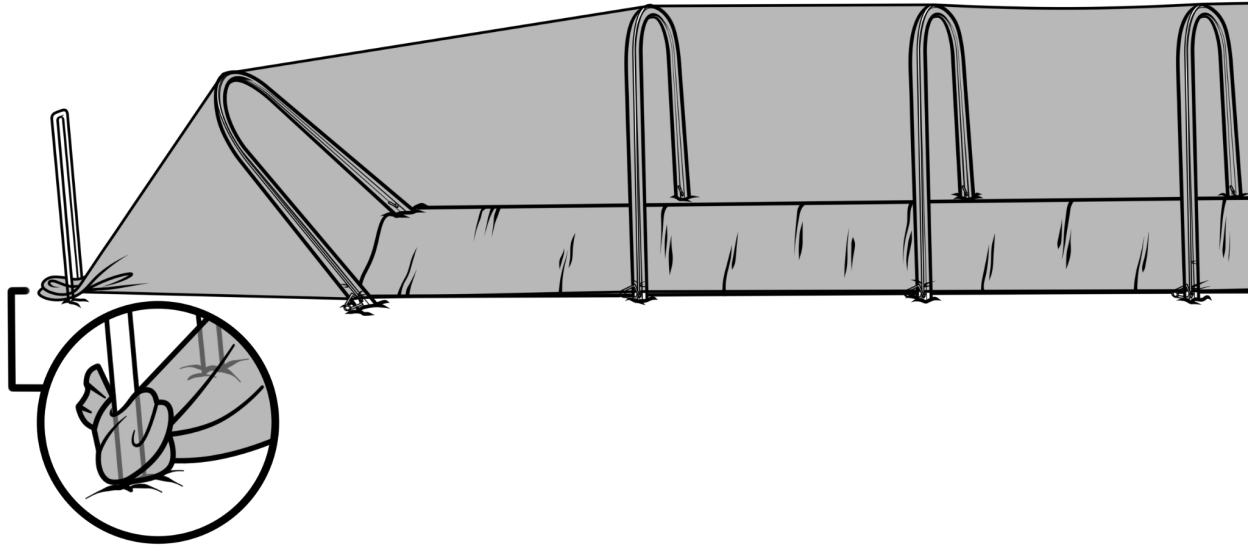


Step 3: Installing the Cover

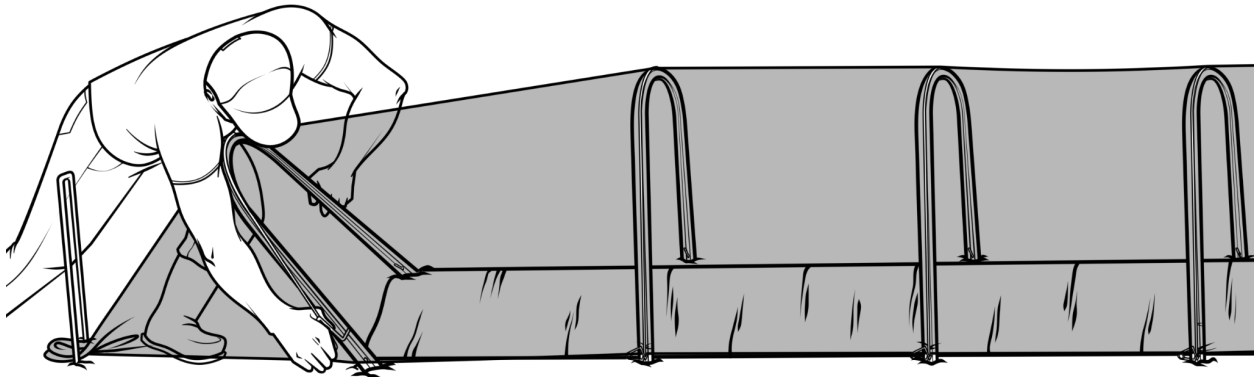
With the Kwik Hoops installed and the retaining wires positioned on the ground next to each hoop, it's time to unroll the cover and slide it over the hoops.



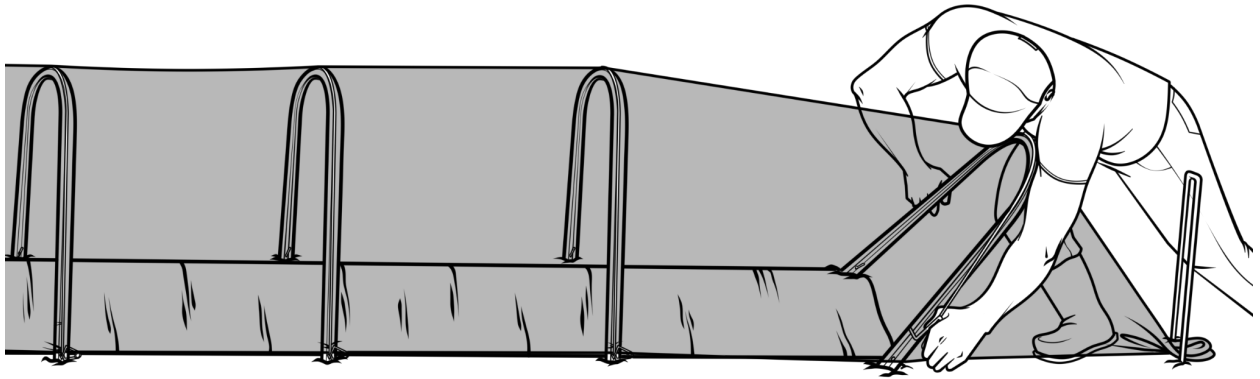
After the cover is draped over the hoops, tie off one end of your cover to a u-stake with a simple knot.



Next, install one retaining wire onto the angled end hoop, holding the cover in place.



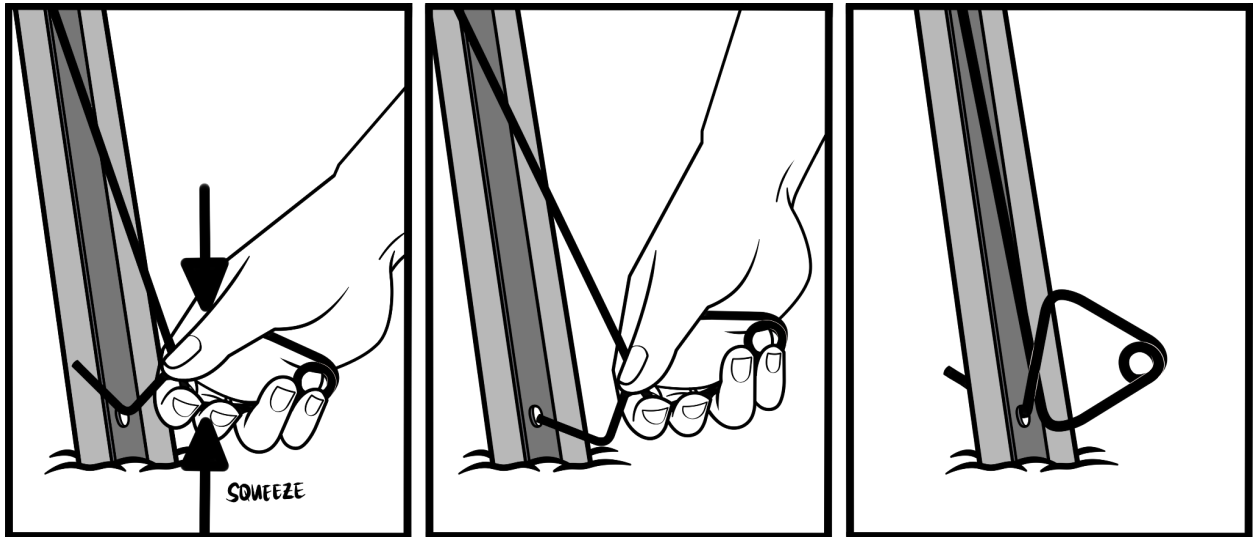
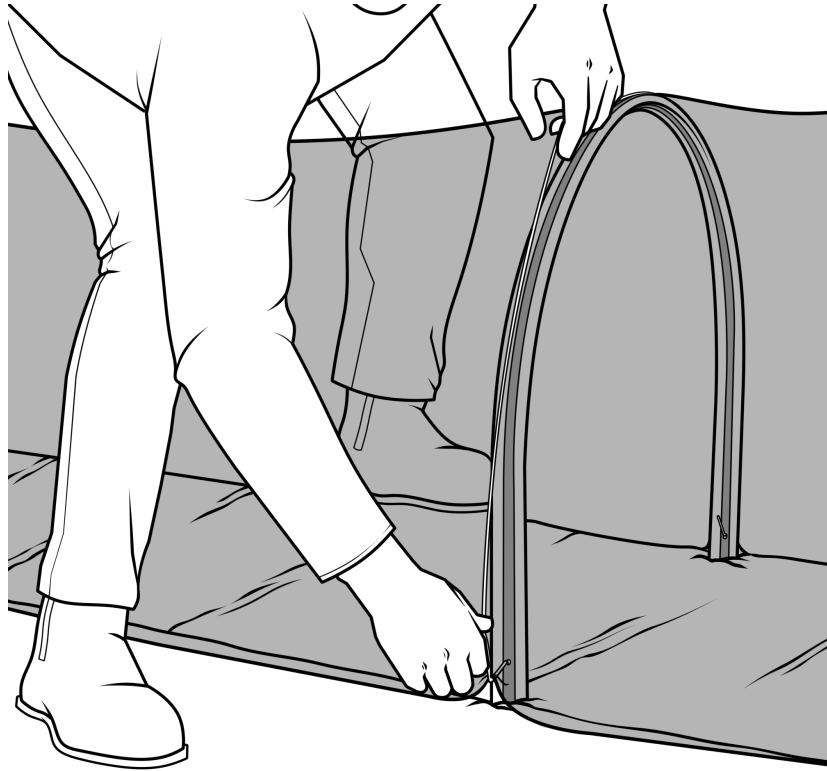
Then repeat the same process at the other end of the bed: pull the cover tight, tie it off to the other u-stake, and install a retaining wire to the other end hoop.



Step 4: Installing the Remaining Retaining Wires

The next step is installing the remaining retaining wires over the top of the cover and locking them into the channel of each Kwik Hoop.

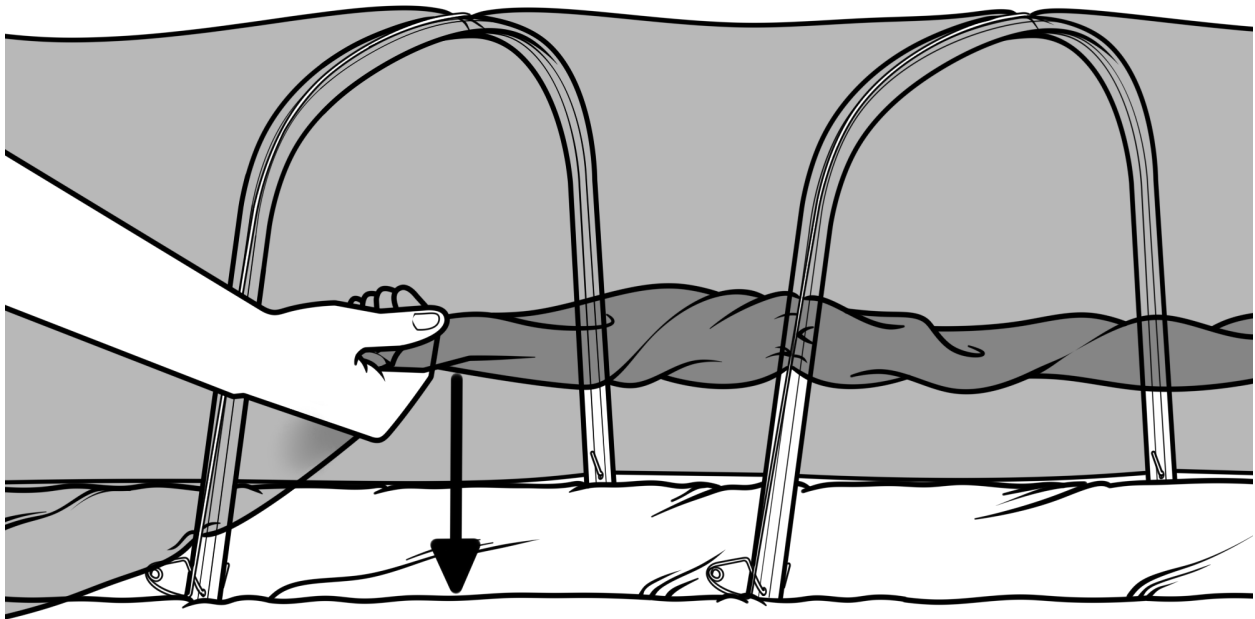
When installing the retaining wires, start at one end of the bed and straddle the tunnel as you snap in each wire. Ensure that every pigtail clip is clipped into the pre-punched hole at the base of each side of the hoop.



How to secure the pigtail clip: squeeze - clip to pre-punched hole - release.

Step 5: Pulling Down the Sides

Lastly, pull the cover down to the ground level on both sides of the low tunnel. This step is critical when using InsectaNet because gaps between the insect netting and the ground allow insects in, trapping them inside and worsening the problem.

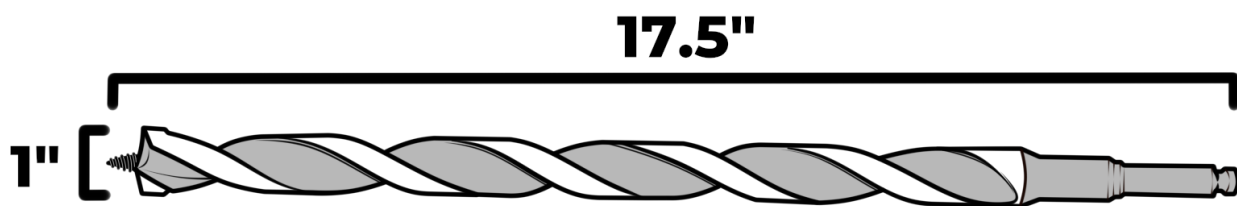


Tips for ensuring the edges of fabric maintain complete ground contact:

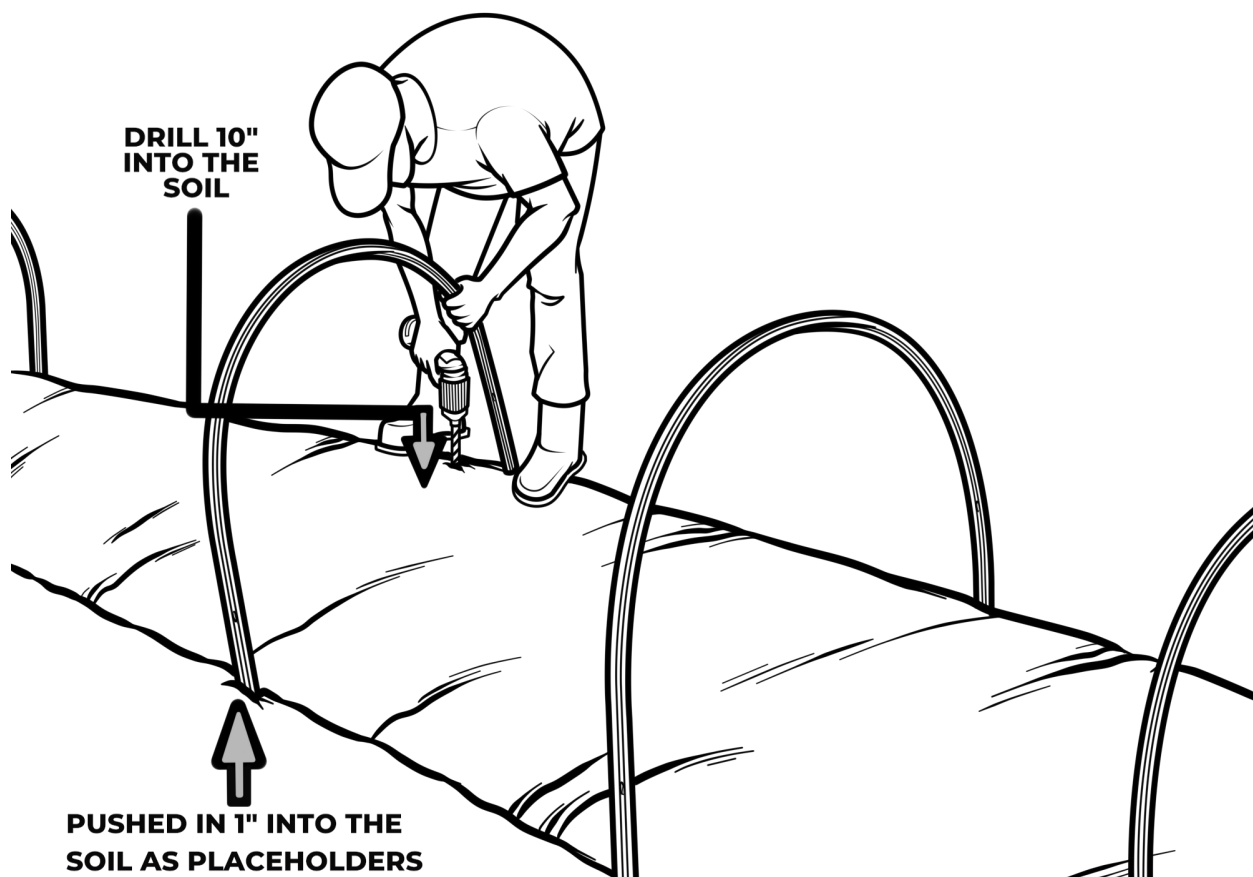
1. Install the hoops so the pre-punched hole is below ground level.
2. Install the hoops outside of your raised bed.

Appendix 1: Dealing with Compacted or Rocky Soil

In compacted or rocky soils, a power drill and auger bit can pre-drill a hole for the hoops, making it easier to push them in. We recommend an auger bit 1" wide by 20" long (+/- in length) from your local hardware store.



When drilling holes, first pace off your desired spacing and push in your Kwik Hoops just an inch or so—as placeholders. Then, come through with the power drill and auger bit and pull out one end of the hoop at a time, drilling the holes to a depth of about ten inches.

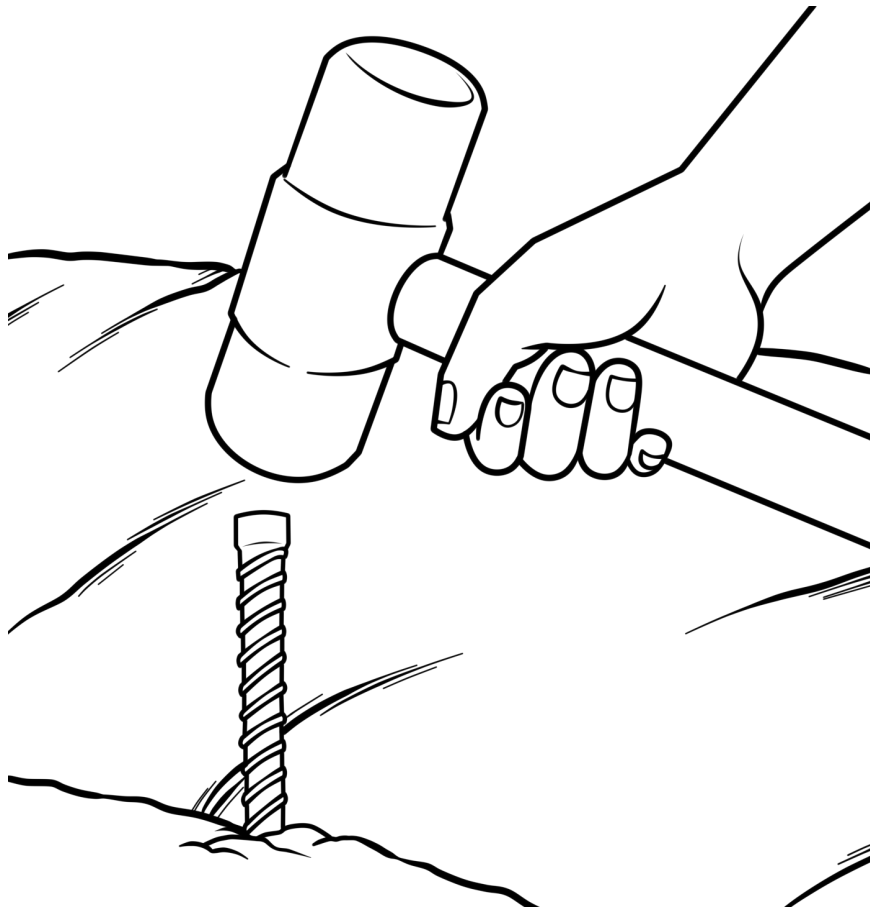


When all holes are drilled, come back through and push in the Kwik Hoops to the appropriate depth, with the pre-punched hole at ground level (refer back to Figure 2).

Note: When pushing the Kwik Hoops to the pre-drilled holes, line up both ends of the hoop and push the hoop into both holes simultaneously. If you do one side first, the other side will be at an angle, not lining up with your pre-drilled hole.

While pre-drilling holes adds an extra step, it takes very little time and can make the experience of installing your Kwik Hoops much easier in contexts where compacted soil is an issue.

Note: If you don't have access to a power drill and an auger bit, you can also use a rebar stake and a mini sledgehammer to pound in "pilot holes." This step is a little more labor-intensive than the auger bit but will also get the job done.



Using a rebar stake and hammer creates "pilot holes" in the ground.

Appendix 2: Sliding Up the Sides

Insect netting, poly plastic, and shade net are durable materials and should easily slide up and down between the Kwik Hoops and the retaining wires.

Frost cloth, however, is easier to tear. As such, it should be treated with greater care. When opening the sides of a Kwik Hoops low tunnel using frost cloth, especially lighter weight frost cloth, we recommend sliding it up slowly, with a hand on either side of the hoop.

When sliding the frost cloth back down, we recommend unclipping the base of the retaining wire as an extra precaution to avoid potential tearing.

Appendix 3: Fixing Pigtail Clips

When removing the pigtail clip from the Kwik Hoop, the tip may end up on the wrong side of the retaining wire, causing issues securing the fabric. If this happens, move the tip over to the correct side of the retaining wire.

