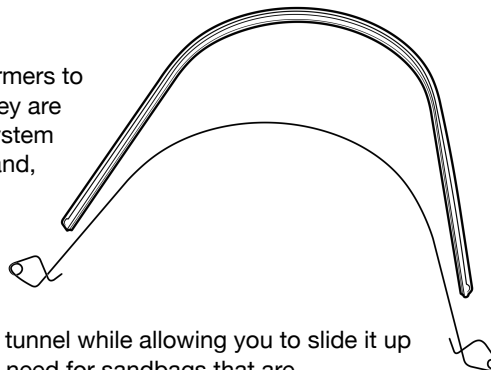


## Kwik Hoops®

### **Product Overview:**

Kwik Hoops® are ultra-portable low tunnels that make it easy for farmers to protect their crops from insect pests, animals, and the elements. They are compatible with all agricultural coverings, allowing you to use the system year-round in all conditions. Manufactured by Redpath in New Zealand, these durable hoops are made of high-tensile galvanized steel.

This innovative system uses heavy gauge retaining wires that snap over each hoop. The retaining wires are held in place by pigtail clips that snap into a pre-punched hole at the base of each side of the hoop. These wires hold the covering firmly onto your low tunnel while allowing you to slide it up and down for easy access to your crops. This system eliminates the need for sandbags that are traditionally used to hold the coverings onto low tunnels.



Kwik Hoops® can be used with insect netting, shade cloth, frost cloth, and greenhouse plastic. Coverings must be a minimum of 69" wide; 83" wide is ideal. Coverings can be as wide as 10 feet, though extra material will be gathered at ground level on each side of the low tunnel. In terms of length, it is recommended to have approximately 5 feet of additional material on each end of the bed for tying off the covering to the supplied U-stakes.

### **What's Included:**

#### **Kwik Hoops®**

Kwik Hoops® are made from durable 24 gauge high-tensile galvanized steel. They measure 30" wide and 23.5" tall (from ground level to the peak of the hoop after installation).

There is a pre-punched hole about 10" above the base of each end of the hoop. Once installed, the pre-punched hole should be at ground level.

It is recommended to space hoops 5 feet apart for locations that experience high winds and 10 feet apart for ordinary conditions.

#### **Retaining Wires**

One 14-gauge retaining wire is supplied for every hoop. On either end of the retaining wire is a pigtail clip designed to snap into the pre-punched hole of the hoop easily. Each hoop has a channel for the retaining wire to rest in, centering it on the hoop and preventing it from sliding to one side.

#### **U-Stakes (2)**

Two 17.5" stainless steel U-stakes are supplied for tying off and closing the ends of your Kwik Hoops® low tunnel. Hammer in the supplied U-stakes at a 15° angle about two feet from each end of the tunnel. The covering can be slipped through the U-stake and tied in a simple knot.

### **Unboxing:**

- We recommend that when you first unbox your new Kwik Hoops®, keep the retaining wires shrink-wrapped until immediately before you install them to prevent them from becoming tangled before installation.
- The best way to prevent the retaining wires from becoming tangled is to keep them locked onto the hoops for storage, transportation, and installation.

### **Spacing & Installing the Kwik Hoops®:**

- Your growing site and the cover material will 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.
- For the hoops at the ends of the bed, angle them away from the bed at a 15° 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.

#### **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.

#### **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 snap clip is clipped into the pre-punched hole at the base of each side of the hoop.

#### **Pulling Down the Sides:**

- Lastly, pull the cover down to 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.

#### **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.
- 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.