



There are several different styles of greenhouses both in Ontario and around the globe. They range from low to high-tech, but regardless of style, the aim is to create a protected growing environment where plants can thrive, allowing fresh fruits and vegetables to be grown more efficiently and with less waste.

Over the years, especially as you drive through our community, you may have noticed that the newer greenhouses are taller than before. As our growers adopt the leading innovations in greenhouse produce cultivation, the height of the greenhouse plays an important role in how productive our plants inside can be! The allows more vegetables to be grown, and more people to have access to fresh Ontario-grown veggies all year long.

The greenhouse environment, among other factors, allows our growers to control the temperature and humidity of the climate surrounding the plants, providing an optimal growing environment.

The increase in the height of greenhouses over

the years primarily is to give the plants more space to grow! The space above the plants acts as a buffer area so that temperature, humidity, and ventilation can be better controlled. The central part of the plant, 'the head', is what needs to be protected the most, as it is where the young leaves and fruit will grow from. The additional space provided by taller structures means that regardless of the temperature outside...hot or cold, the temperature around the plants can remain ideal for growth. This is known as the 'buffer effect'.

This additional space also helps to control humidity. If a plant gets too hot, it will begin to perspire, and to protect its water supply, it will stop growing, which means fewer veggies. Protected agriculture is all about keeping the plants comfortable so that they are best able to produce as much nutritious food as possible for families.

To see more about how we grow check out our Virtual Reality Tour! <https://www.ogvg.com/ogvg-vr-360>



Take a Tour!

OGVG FARMER PROFILES Great Northern Hydroponics

Soave Agriculture Group is made up of three entities in Kingsville that all work together to bring delicious, sustainable tomatoes to their customers. The first of the three entities being Great Northern Hydroponics; a conventional double poly house covering 50 acres of tomatoes, and a newer facility under glass where 15 acres of tomatoes can be grown year-round! The second entity is Great Northern Seedlings; a 5-acre greenhouse that is entirely dedicated to hydroponic tomato production. The last entity under Soave Agricultural Group is Soave Hydroponics Company, which had a 12MW cogeneration system installed in 2008. This system allows for Great Northern to offset a large portion of their own energy costs, while also supplying power to the Ontario power grid. Altogether, Soave Agriculture Group is a perfect example of how important players in the Southwestern Ontario greenhouse industry can evolve and adapt over time to continue meeting customer's needs while becoming more conscious and responsible of the environmental impacts greenhouse growing can have. Learn more

about the exciting ways Great Northern grows here: <https://www.ogvgconnect.com/grower-profiles/great-northern-hydroponics>



Commodity Spotlight

Greenhouse Strawberries

The OGVG represents over 200 growers of greenhouse tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. However, many farmers in our membership are re-defining what types of fruits and vegetables can be grown in protected environments right here in Ontario year-round! With innovation and new technology, Ontario greenhouse growers are beginning to grow hydroponic strawberries! Some of the largest in-door strawberry farms are right here in our community!

