

High Tunnel Follow Up Questionnaire Results:

Eight farmers responded to our questionnaire. We contacted ten.

First, we asked the participants to rank the following research topics in order of importance (1 = most important, 6 = least important).

- Attracting pollinators and beneficial insects (PB)
- Crop rotations, crop selection, and cover crops (CR)
- Economic issues (EI)
- Pest and disease management (PD)
- Soil fertility management (SF)
- Ventilation and temperature management (VT)

Research Topic	Ranked 1 (frequency)	Ranked 2 (frequency)	Ranked 3 (frequency)	Ranked 4 (frequency)	Ranked 5 (frequency)	Ranked 6 (frequency)
PB	1	1	2	2	0	2
CR	2	2	1	1	2	0
EI	1	1	0	2	2	2
PD	3	1	2	1	1	0
SF	1	2	2	2	1	0
VT	0	1	1	0	2	4

When we convert this to a points system (see key below) we get the following results (see table below).

- Ranked 1 = 6 points
- Ranked 2 = 5 points
- Ranked 3 = 4 points
- Ranked 4 = 3 points
- Ranked 5 = 2 points
- Ranked 6 = 1 point

Research Topic	Points
PB	27
CR	33
EI	23
PD	36
SF	32
VT	17

Overall, farmers are most concerned with pest and disease management (36 points), crop rotations, crop selection, and cover crops (33 points), and soil fertility management (32 points).

Next, we asked the participants to select the three most important crops from the following list to conduct research on in high tunnels and rank them by order of importance (1 = most important, 3 = least important).

- cucumbers
- eggplant
- herbs and spices
- leafy greens (kale, mustard, collards, etc.)
- melons
- peppers
- root crops
- salad greens (lettuce, microgreens, arugula, etc.)
- squash

- strawberries
- tomatoes

Several crops were not selected at all. These were:

- eggplant
- melons
- root crops
- strawberries

Crops	Ranked 1 (frequency)	Ranked 2 (frequency)	Ranked 3 (frequency)
cucumbers	0	1	3
herbs and spices	0	0	1
leafy greens (kale, mustard, collards, etc.)	1	1	2
peppers	2	3	0
salad greens (lettuce, microgreens, arugula, etc.)	2	2	1
squash	0	0	1
tomatoes	3	1	0

When we convert this to a points system (see key below) we get the following results (see table below).

- Ranked 1 = 3 points
- Ranked 2 = 2 points
- Ranked 3 = 1 point

Crops	Points
cucumbers	5
herbs and spices	1
leafy greens (kale, mustard, collards, etc.)	7
peppers	12
salad greens (lettuce, microgreens, arugula, etc.)	11
squash	1
tomatoes	11

Overall, farmers are most interested in researching peppers (12 points), salad greens (11 points), and tomatoes (11 points).