



Hail Protection Design, Materials, and Set Up

A guide for building your own hail kit

Hail is a consistent force in the Colorado Front Range. It usually strikes pretty quickly, and with very little warning. Hail season normally coincides with the Colorado growing season, and is heaviest from April - September, with mid to late June being the peak times for the most destructive hail damage. A beautiful would-be harvest can be destroyed in seconds, and with it, all of the hard work and dedication the staff and students of the school have put in.

The following is a recommended hail kit for your Learning Garden. The kit allows for sunlight and water to come through easily but should be effective in heavily mitigating the effects of a hail storm. It also has the added benefit of being a large pest barrier.

Big Green Program Staff will help you set everything up, just send your Garden Educator an email and we'll schedule a time to come out.



Materials You Will Need (can all be ordered via Amazon and shipped free via Amazon Prime):

[Ag-Fabric Anti-Hail Netting 9.84 x 100': 80.59](#)

[6" Zip Ties: 100 Pack: \\$6.00](#)

[2' Garden Stakes \(25 pack x 2 = 50 total\): \\$33.98](#)

[PEX Tubing 3/4 inch @ 100 feet - for cutting into 4 foot pieces: \\$44.50](#)

[PEX Tubing 1/2 inch @ 50 feet - for cutting into 4 foot pieces: \\$15.18](#)

Total Expected Cost of Materials: \$180.25

Tools Needed:

PVC Pipe Cutters, heavy duty sheers/scissors, or a small hacksaw

- For Cutting Tubing (tubing will arrive in coiled bundles and will need to be cut into 4' segments)

Scissors

- For cutting fabric

Small hammer (if soil is really hard)

Directions:

- 1.) Cut tubing to lengths of 4' (cut one at 4' and use as a template for the rest)
- 2.) Push garden stakes into soil directly opposite of each other (3 pairs of garden stakes per large garden bed). Garden stakes will act as the supports for your plastic hoops. Make sure garden stakes are as far in as they can be pushed. If needed, wet soil and use a small hammer to drive garden stakes into the soil.
- 3.) The hollow PEX tubing will fit directly over your green garden stakes, allowing you to make three hoops per large garden bed, as shown in the picture on page 1.
- 4.) Set up hoops in every section of your garden you would like to have protected
- 5.) Roll out our anti-hail fabric to the desired length and cut. The length will depend on how large of a section you are cutting for (note: sections consist of multiple Learning Garden beds bolted together.) You can be approximate with this, but it is advised to roll out the material longer than you think you may need. You can always customize the fit after the material is secured to the hoops.
- 6.) After you've cut your desired length, cut width of your fabric in half (from 9.84 feet to 4.92 feet). This should give you enough fabric to drape over your hoops, while also giving you an extra half to store for any replacements needed down the line.
- 7.) Drape your fabric over your hoops, completing one full section at a time.
- 8.) Secure your fabric to the hoops using zip ties. Be sure to pull zip ties tight. Work your way from beginning to end, being sure to create a slight tension with the fabric.
- 9.) Continue until all sections you would like covered are secure.
- 10.) Tuck any fabric excess into the underside of the top lip of the garden beds.