



Compost Center and High Tunnel Construction and Management for Farmers

Principal Investigator: G.K. Stearman* and M. Best

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This project has a dual purpose of first adding a second high tunnel at Tennessee Technological University's (TTU) organic farm and then developing a composting center at TTU's Shipley Farm. The new high tunnel is intended for year-round crop production and will be used to demonstrate and educate farmers and others in this farming technique to promote its use in Tennessee. In addition to the high tunnel portion of the project, the investigators purposed to develop a composting center at Shipley Farm located two miles northwest of TTU's main campus. The compost center's focus is to demonstrate composting methods with different mixes of compost, to evaluate composting mixes for specific vegetable, fruit, and ornamental crops, and to conduct workshops and write technical bulletins on composting. There is need for a composting facility in the state as chemical fertilizers become more expensive and energy costs continue to increase.

*denotes project manager