



Frost Protection with Floating Row Covers

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Frost protection

Frost/freeze protection for plants (e.g., strawberries) is possible using row covers that are laid directly on/over plants. Row covers are air & water permeable, UV stabilized, lightweight (0.5 oz/yd² to 2.0 oz/yd²), durable sheets commonly made of spun-bound polypropylene. They create a stable, warmer microclimate by capturing extra heat during the day, and then slowing the loss of stored heat at night from the soil -- without suffocating, crushing or breaking plants. They are applied by hand or by machinery.

In addition to protecting against frost/freeze, row covers can improve earliness, yield, and quality of produce. Other benefits include promoting and protecting late fall, winter, and early spring growth, and providing a barrier to insects. All benefits require proper timing of application and removal. Row covers are often re-used.



Selecting the proper cover

One factor in selecting row covers is to make sure that they do not block too much of available light (e.g., no more than 50%) -- which could actually slow plant growth and maturity. Another major factor in selecting the right cover is the amount of cold protection needed (influenced by the cold tolerance of the plant and the geographical/climatic location).

- ◆ Growers in **mild climates** typically use thinner, lighter (0.5 oz/yd² to 1.0 oz/yd²) row covers – mainly for frost/freeze protection. Here, row covers are viewed as insurance; they may not be needed, but are worth having on hand just in case. Because these covers are used for only short periods, their exposure to the elements (sun, wind, moisture) is low. Therefore, less expensive row covers are used – and often re-used.
- ◆ Growers in **colder climates** typically select thicker, medium to heavy covers (1.0 oz/yd² to 2 oz/yd²). This is because of the need for greater temperature modification and to the longer length of time that these materials will be exposed to the elements.



Results

WITHOUT



VS.

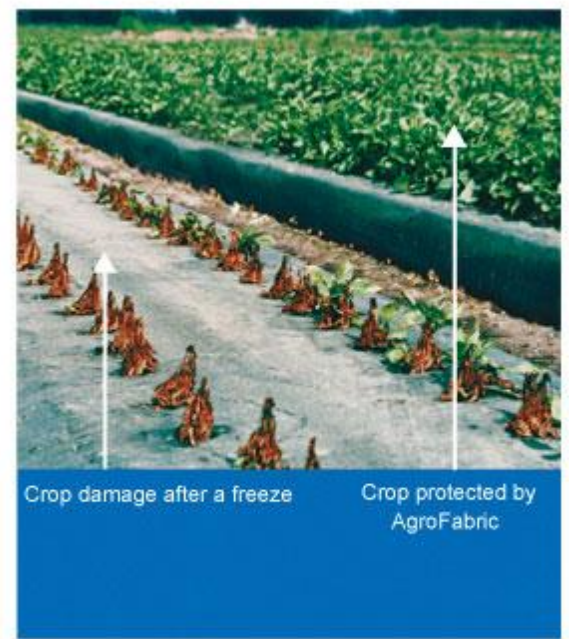
WITH

row cover protection

Choose a degree of protection and an investment level that's right for you. The following chart offers basic information for selecting row covers. Detailed information is available at www.agrofabric.com.

A FULL LINE OF FABRICS AND WINTER BLANKETS TO COVER ANY CROP NEED

		COVER TYPE	WEIGHT	U.V. STABLE, TRANSMITS %	WIDTHS	FROST PROTECTION	OVER-WINTERING	INSECT PROTECTION	STORE/ REUSE
AGROFABRIC COVERS	+2° to 4° F	PR017	0.50 oz. per sq. yd.	95% light	From 2 ft. up to 60 ft. wide in 10- and/or 13-ft. panels	•		•	
		PR019	0.55 oz. per sq. yd.	95% light					
		PR025	0.75 oz. per sq. yd.	85% light					
	+4° to 6° F	PR034	1.00 oz. per sq. yd.	70% light		•	•		•
		PR042	1.25 oz. per sq. yd.	60% light		•	•		•
	+6° to 8° F	PR050	1.5 oz. per sq. yd.	50% light		•	•		•
8° F+	PR070	2.0 oz. per sq. yd.	35% light	•	•		•		
AGROFABRIC WINTER BLANKETS	+8° F	PR080	2.3 oz. per sq. yd.	35% light	From 2 ft. up to 60 ft. wide in 10- and/or 13-ft. panels	•	•		•
		PR090	2.7 oz. per sq. yd.	30% light		•	•		•
		PR0100	3.0 oz. per sq. yd.	30% light		•	•		•
		PR0140	4.0 oz. per sq. yd.	25% light		•	•		•
		PR0200	6.0 oz. per sq. yd.	25% light		•	•		•



QUICK TIP:
 Frost protection can be greatly enhanced when row covers are used in combination with overhead irrigation.

