

Maximizing Film Life Expectancy

Life Expectancy: Maximizing the Life Expectancy of Greenhouse Films

Extremes in temperatures and UV light exposure have a significant effect on the life expectancy of greenhouse films. The combination of high temperatures, high ultraviolet (UV) light levels (particularly on southern exposures), and long summer days reduce the effectiveness of even the best stabilizer systems. Anything that can be done to reduce temperature or UV exposure at film/structure contact points will improve the performance and life expectancy of your cover.

Use the following suggestions to maximize film life under adverse conditions. These guidelines apply anywhere greenhouse films are used, but are especially important areas with high temperatures and/or high altitude.

- Before installing the cover apply white acrylic latex paint¹ or tape² to all contact points. *This is particularly important when the film will be in direct contact with the wood.* This will help reduce temperature as well as protect the film from abrasion.
- Apply a 4 inch wide white paint strip over the film in line with the ribs to protect the film against accelerated degradation caused by excessive heat and UV light.

- Apply a 4 inch wide white paint strip over the poly lock or lathing and film to protect against accelerated degradation caused by excessive heat and UV light.
- Control exposure to chemicals containing chlorine and sulfur, which will deactivate the HALS stabilizing system. These include³, but are not limited to, Chlorinated Hydrocarbon pesticides and fungicides containing sulfur.
- Check the structure regularly and repair any damaged or loose film. Secure any loose lathing or polylock immediately and repair damaged film with an approved greenhouse mending tape such as POLY-PATCH[®].

¹ AT Films, Inc. recommends the use of commercial greenhouse paint compounds designed for this purpose. If standard paints are used be aware that fungicides contained in some exterior latex products may damage greenhouse film.

² AT Films, Inc. recommends the use of commercial greenhouse tapes designed for this purpose. Do not use any Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) tape.

³ See PIB1, "The Effect of Chemicals on Polyethylene Film in the Greenhouse Environment."

