



NSF NRT-InFEWS: Indigenous Food, Energy, and  
Water Security and Sovereignty  
Presents:



# Food, Energy and Water (FEWS) Learning Modules

June 2021





# Indige-FEWSS Team



**Karletta Chief**

*Environmental Science*

**Robert Arnold**

*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*

**Benedict J. Colombi**

*American Indian Studies*

**Murat Kacira**

*Biosystems Engineering*

**Vasiliki Karanikola**

*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*

**Kimberly Ogden**

*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*

**Erin L. Ratcliff**

*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*

**Valerie Shirley**

*Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies*

**Kelly Simmons-Potter**

*Electrical & Computer Engineering; Optical Sciences*

**Benita Litson and Bryan Neztosie**

*Diné College, Land Grant Office*

---

**Cara Shopa**, Program Coordinator

**Torran Anderson**, Outreach Coordinator

# MODULE INTRODUCTION:

DR. MURAT KACIRA - DIRECTOR, CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE CENTER

## MODULE 1: DINÉ FOOD SOVEREIGNTY & AGRICULTURE

JAYMUS LEE - PSM IN CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

- Lecture
- Zoom Poll Question
- Jamboard (Slide 1)
- Lunch Break Discussion Prompt

## MODULE 2: CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE & GREENHOUSE DESIGN

AMY PIERCE, MS BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING

- Lecture
- Zoom Poll Question
- Jamboard (Slide 2)

## MODULE 3: HYDROPONICS & GROWING SYSTEMS

ALEXANDRA TRAHAN, MS, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

- Lecture
- Jamboard (Slide 3)

## MODULE 4: CEA PLANT NUTRITION

RUTH PANNILL, MS NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

- Lecture
- Zoom Poll Question

## MODULE 5: DINÉ COLLEGE HOOP HOUSE PROJECT

JAYMUS LEE - PSM IN CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

- Lecture
- Application and Review

## REVIEW: INTRODUCTION TO HOMEWORK & EQUATIONS

AMY PIERCE, MS BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING & JAYMUS LEE - PSM IN CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



INDIGE-FEWSS FOOD MODULES

**CONTROLLED  
ENVIRONMENT  
AGRICULTURE &  
GREENHOUSE DESIGN**



*Presented by: Amy Pierce*



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ARIZONA

# Learning Objectives

**Students will be able to...**

- 1. Name the three most important environmental variables that should be monitored and controlled in a greenhouse.**
- 2. Name and describe suitable methods for greenhouse heating and cooling.**
- 3. Describe how food, water, and energy are produced and used in an off-grid greenhouse system.**

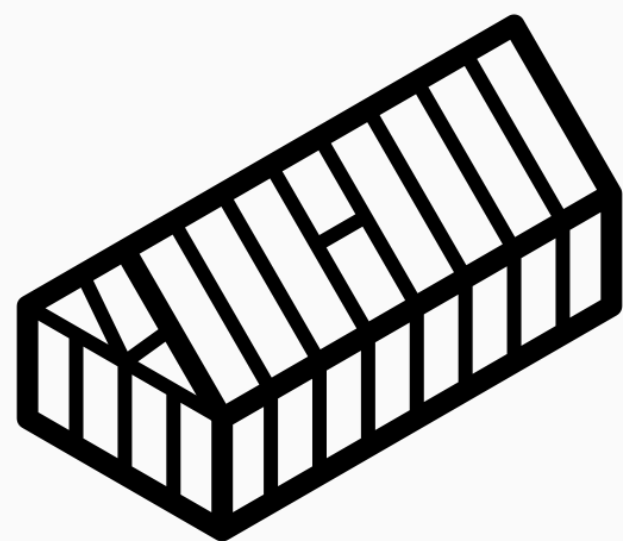
Presentation Outline:

1. CEA & The Navajo Nation
2. Greenhouse Shapes & Structures
3. Heating & Cooling
4. Irrigation

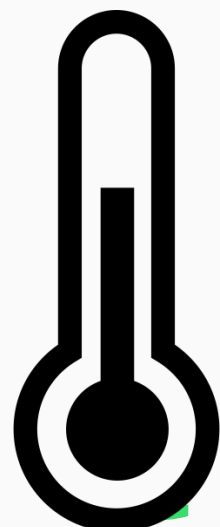


# Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA)

PROVIDES PHYSICAL **PROTECTION** AND **OPTIMAL GROWING  
CONDITIONS** THROUGHOUT CROP DEVELOPMENT



Structure



Climate Control Systems



Irrigation Systems

# Scales of Protected Cultivation

*Low-Technology*



Traditional Navajo Shadehouse



Low-Tunnel Plant Covering



High-Tunnel / Hoop House

*High-Technology*



Vertical Farm



High-Tech Greenhouse



Medium-Tech Greenhouse

# Why CEA in Navajo Nation?

**Solar resources are abundant, water less so**

- Greenhouses utilize free resource of the sun, protect against harsh weather, and use a lot less water for production compared to open field

**Increase Navajo food security and sovereignty**

- Fresh produce closer and more affordable

**Large Navajo agricultural sector already exists**

- Approximately 14,500 farms on Navajo Nation (2017)
- Feed for livestock can be grown more efficiently

**Steady, year-round employment in rising industry**

- Greenhouses need people to maintain the plants and all of the greenhouse systems





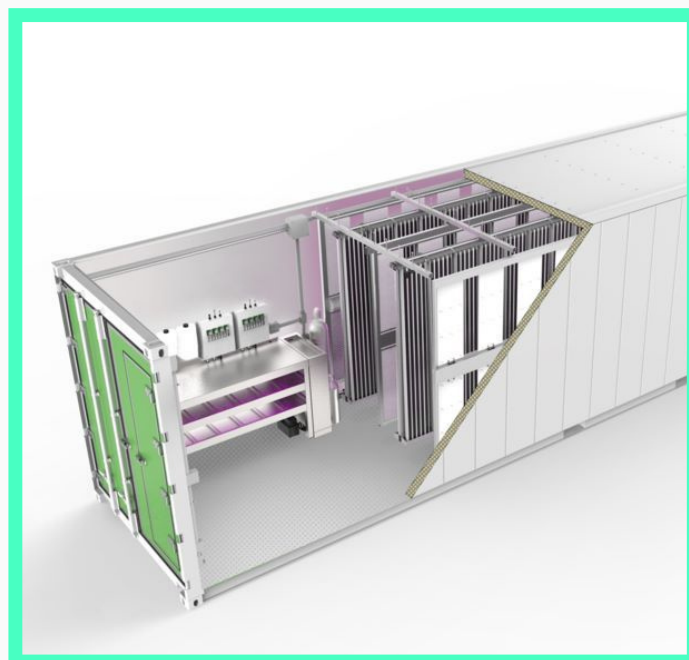
# Controlled Environment Agriculture



ROOFTOP AQUAPONICS FACILITY  
HAGUE, NETHERLANDS



AEROFARMS  
NEW JERSEY USA



FREIGHT FARM  
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS



UA CEAC TEACHING GREENHOUSE  
TUCSON, AZ

**GREENHOUSES**

**INDOOR PLANT FACTORIES**

**ROOFTOP GROWING FACILITIES**

**CONTAINER FARMS**

**HYDROPONICS**

**AQUAPONICS**

**AEROPONICS**

**MYCOCULTURE**

# Why Greenhouses on the Navajo Nation?

1. Grow year-round (independent of seasons)
2. Efficient use of resources (i.e. water, fertilizer, labor, energy)
3. Sustainable food systems: local, fresh produce and steady jobs
4. Improved independence from outside climate & pests
5. Use of nonarable and contaminated land

# Greenhouse Production & Traditional Navajo Cultivation

## Similarities

- Significance of place
- Practical experience and hands on
- Knowledge of planting and harvesting
- Resource-use efficiency and non-depletion
- Sustainability as a central goal



Geodesic Greenhouse on Navajo Nation

## Differences

- Biodiversity
- Manipulated environment
- Spirituality in traditional cultivation
- Ceremonial use of traditional foods
- Sense of place and time
- Knowledge of creation and organization
- Generational transmission of traditional knowledge

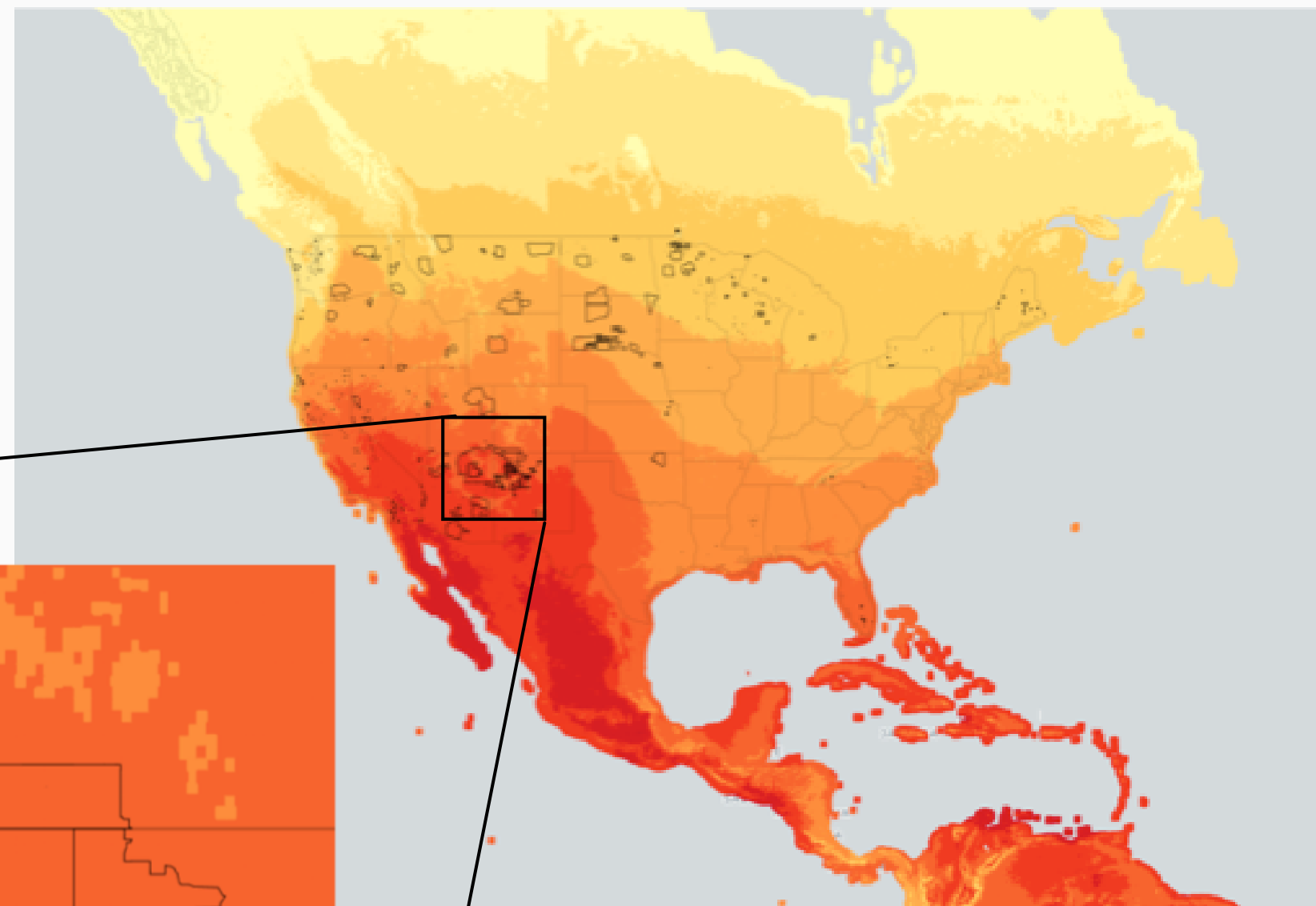
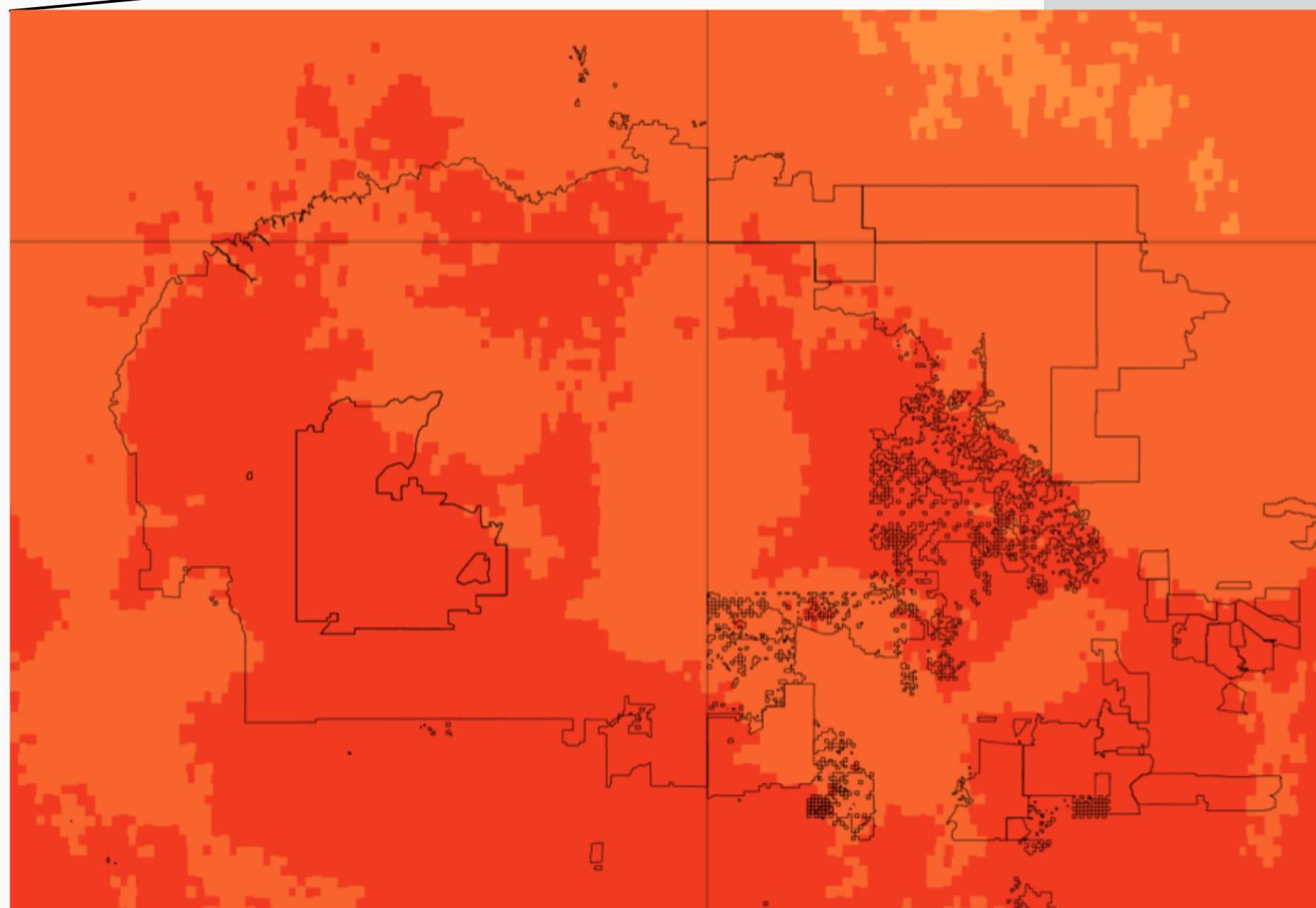


Source: Chaco Culture National Historical Park Museum Collection and Pacific Domes (1898)

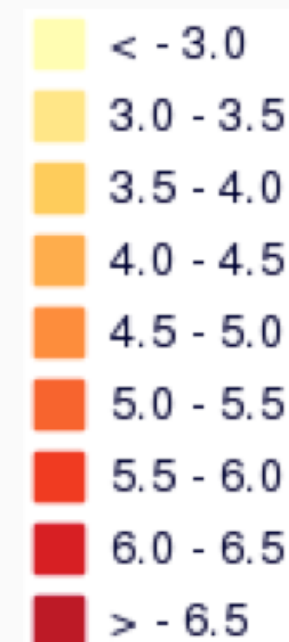
# What are your cultural concerns about growing food in a greenhouse?

Answer in chat or microphone

# Adiníííín (Light) on Dinéétah



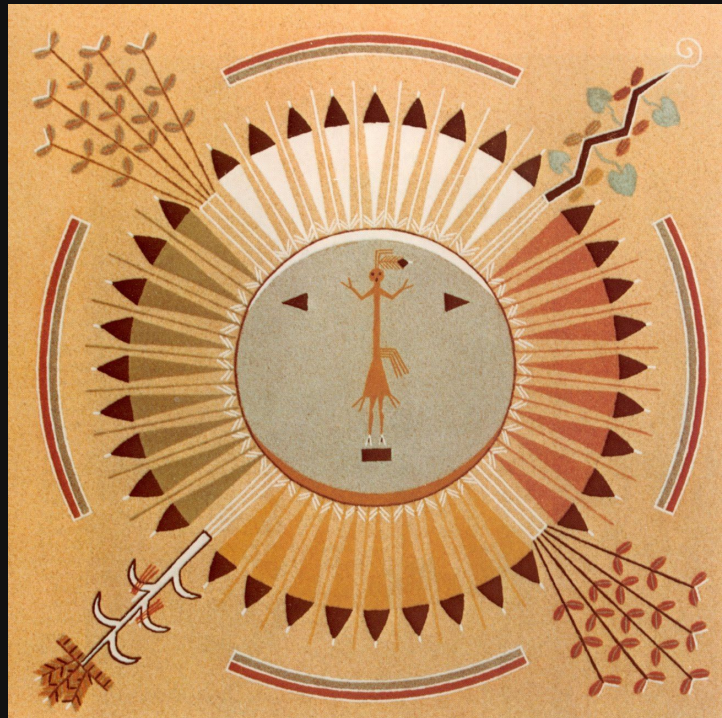
**AVERAGED GLOBAL HORIZONTAL  
IRRADIANCE (KWH/M2/DAY)**



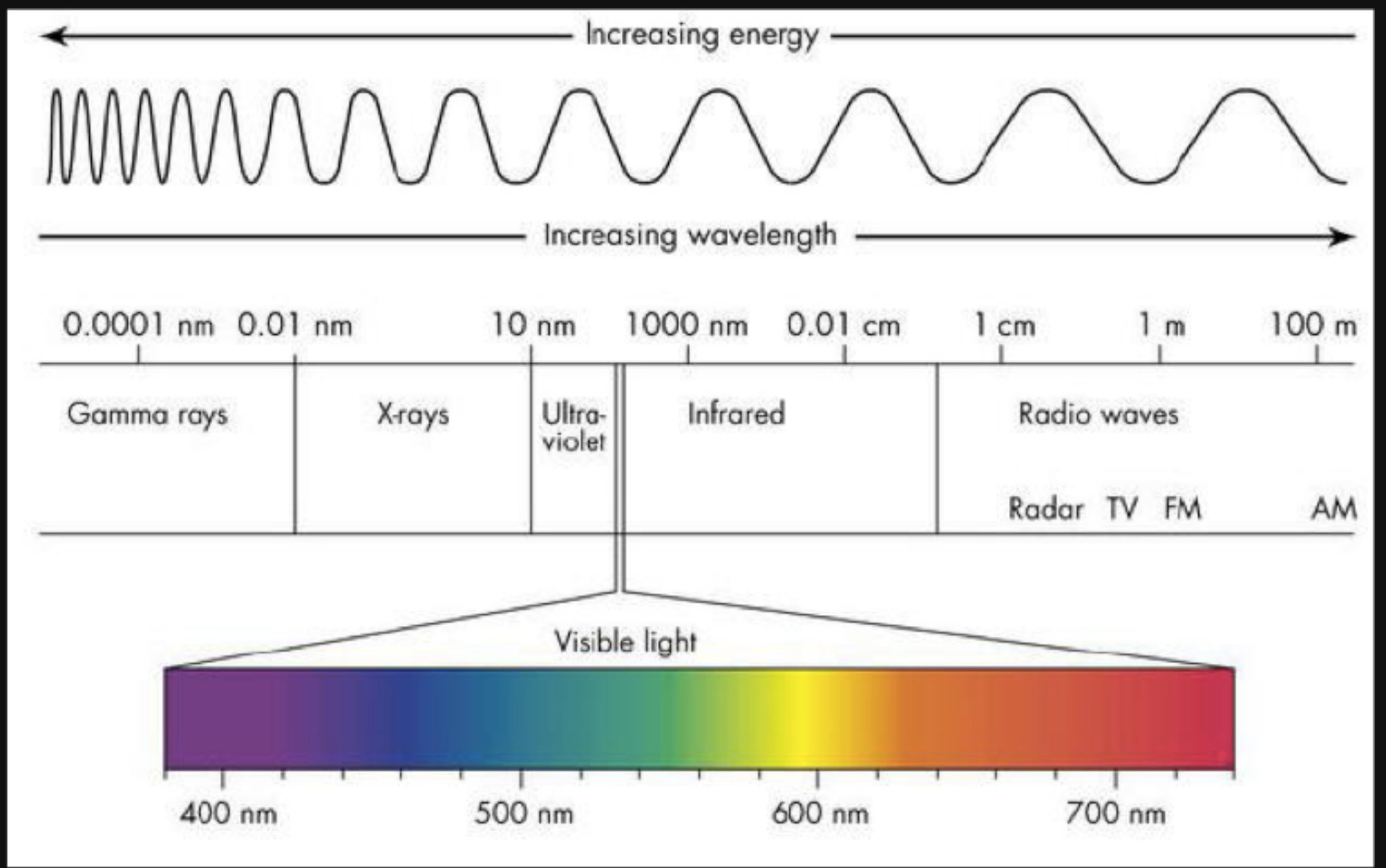
DATA TAKEN FROM NREL NATIONAL SOLAR RESOURCES DATABASE

# What is Adinídiín (Light)?

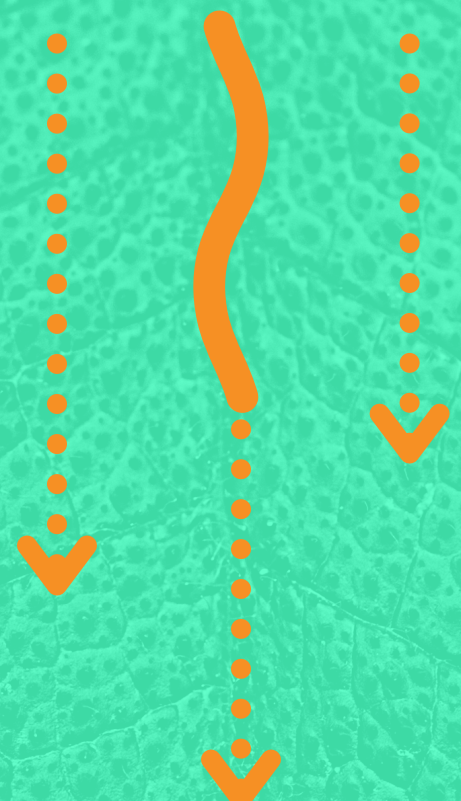
- Energy travels in waves – the wavelength determines the type of energy
- Shorter wavelength → higher energy
- **Sunlight** is electromagnetic radiation emitted by the sun



# What is Adinídíín (Light)?



# How to measure light?



**Pyranometer:** a sensor that converts the global solar radiation it receives into an electrical signal that can be measured

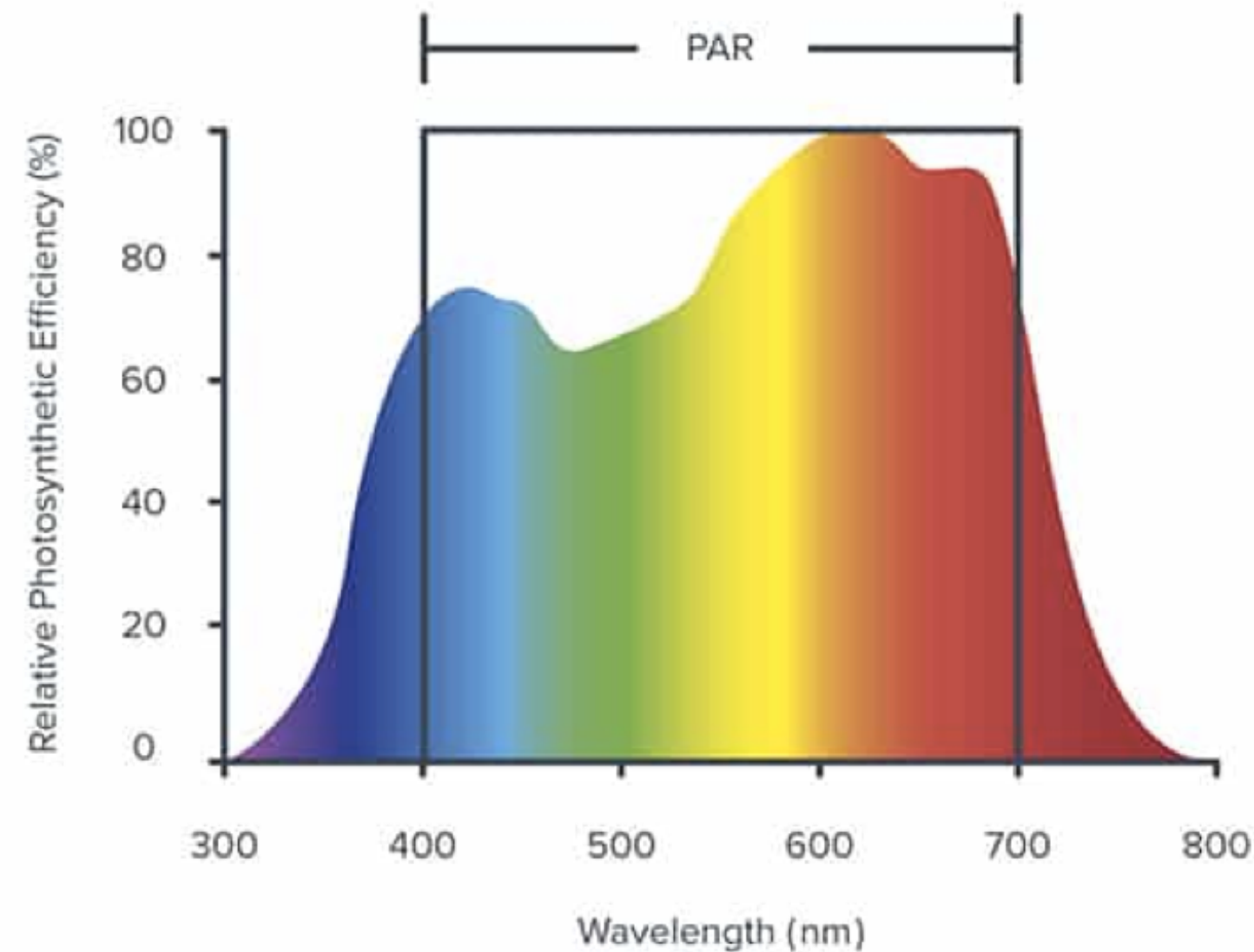




# Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR)

400 – 700 nm wavelengths  
(visible range)

Plants use these  
wavelengths to  
conduct  
photosynthesis!



We measure PAR using a quantum sensor



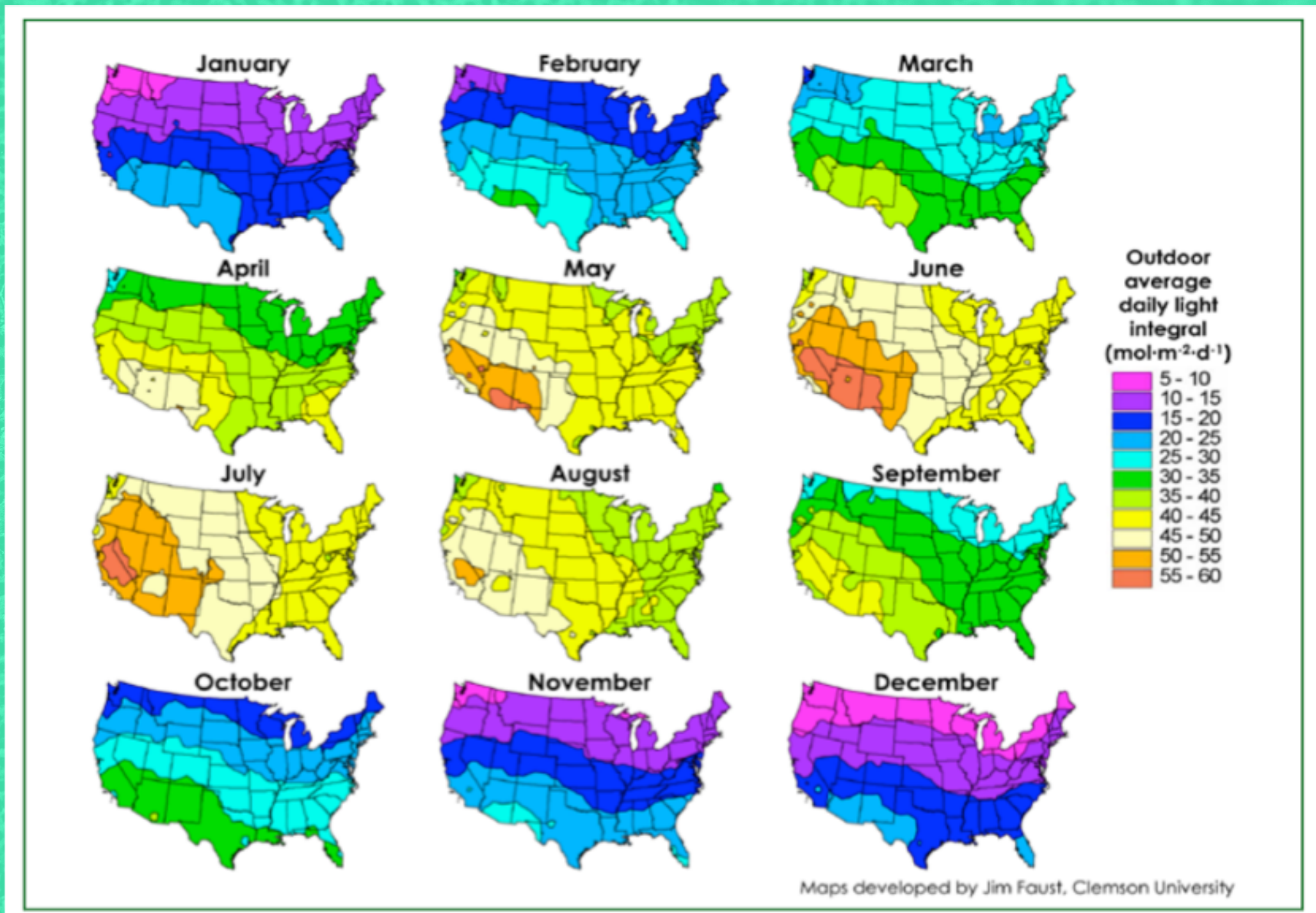
# Light Availability in the U.S.

## Daily Light Integral (DLI)

= accumulated PAR over the course of the day

Higher DLI means **more light for photosynthesis**

Plant	DLI (mol/(m <sup>2</sup> day))
Seedlings/cuttings	6-8
Small herbs	10-12
Butterhead lettuce	14-16
Cucumber	20-30
Eggplant	20-30
Tomatoes	22-30



Maps developed by Jim Faust, Clemson University

**Figure 1.** Maps of monthly outdoor DLI throughout the United States.  
 Source: Mapping monthly distribution of daily light integrals across the contiguous United States (Pamela C. Korczynski, Joanne Logan, and James E. Faust; Clemson University, 2002)

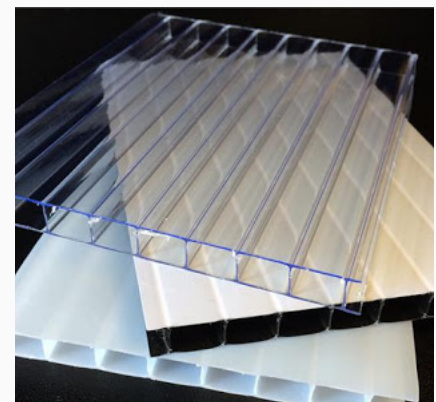
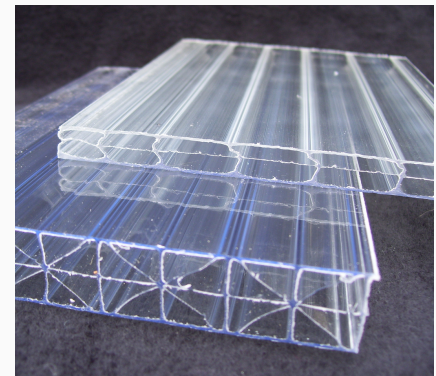
# Greenhouse Design: Covering (Glazing)

## TODAY WE ARE LOOKING AT:

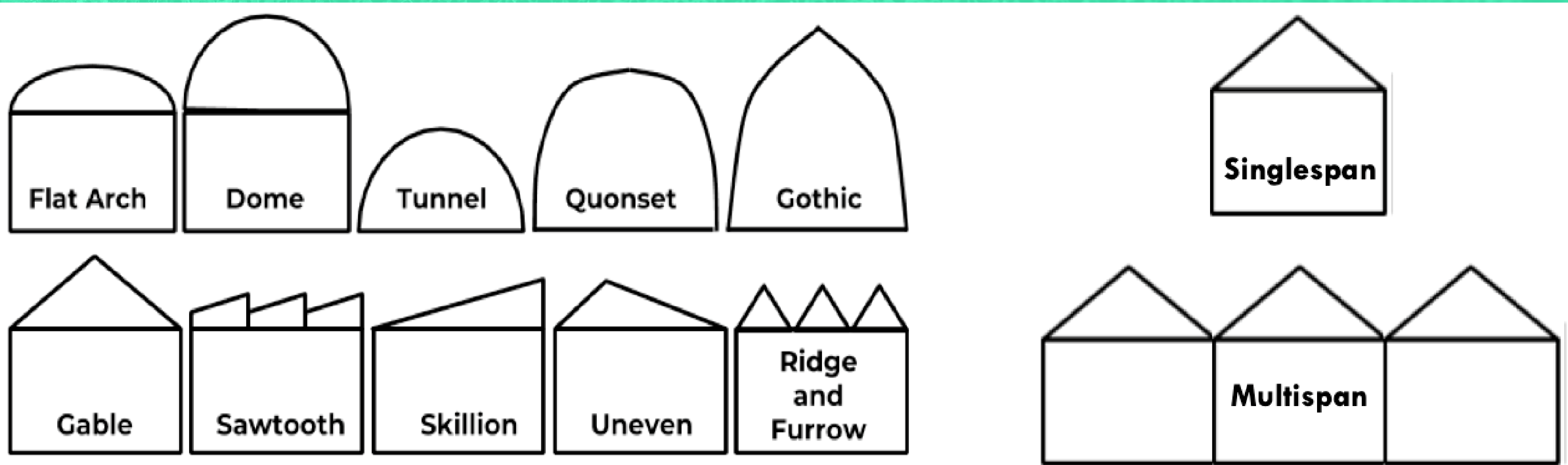
- Glass
- Polyethylene
- Polycarbonate
- Acrylic

Covering Material	PAR Transmittance (%)	Infrared Transmittance (%)	UV Transmittance (%)	Durability (years)
Glass	90	<3	70	30+
Polyethylene (Double)	<80	50	48	3-4
Polycarbonate	83	<3	18	8-10
<u>Acrylic</u> (Twin wall)	86	<5	44	20+

Covering Material	U (BTU hr <sup>-1</sup> ft <sup>-2</sup> F <sup>-1</sup> )=1/R	R Value
Single (double) glass	1.15 (0.7)	0.87 (1.43)
Single (double) poly	1.15 (0.7)	0.87 (1.43)
Double poly + thermal screen	0.3 – 0.5	3.3-2.0
Double layer polycarbonate	0.6	1.67
Double layer acrylic	0.6	1.67

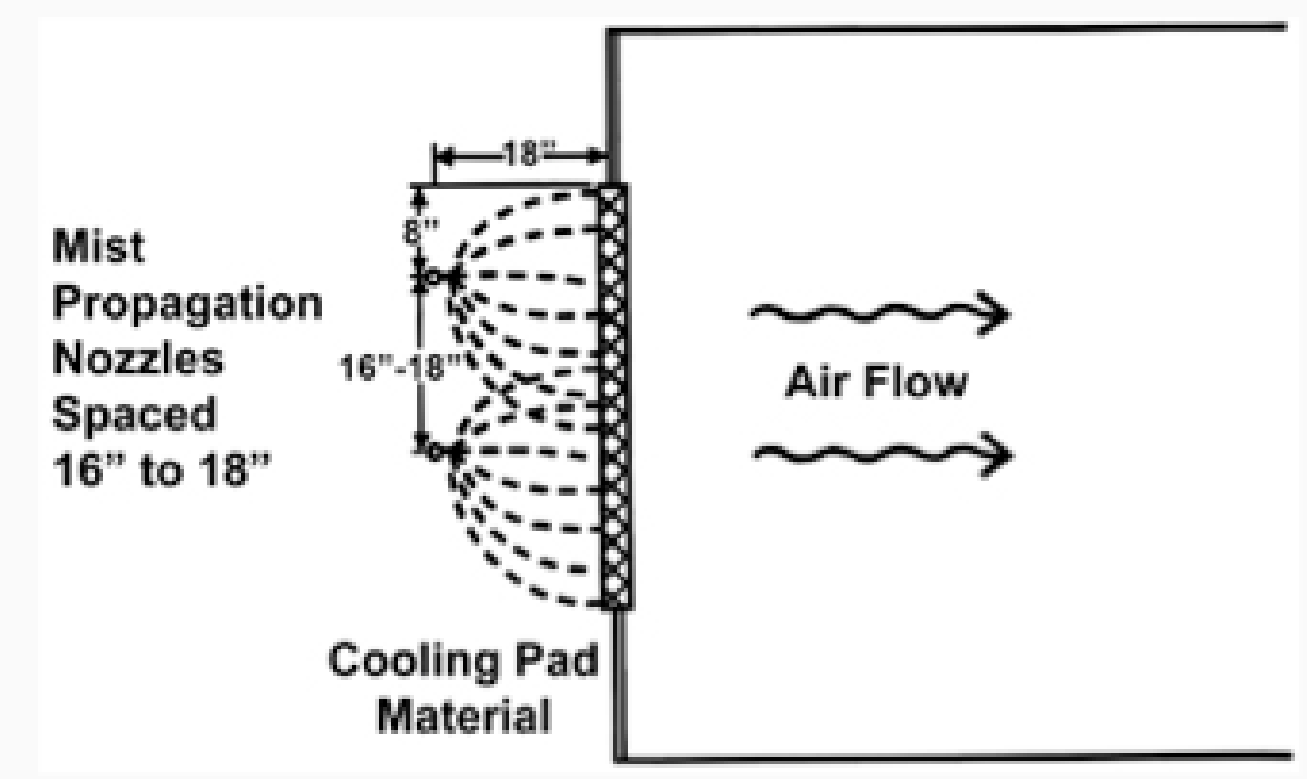
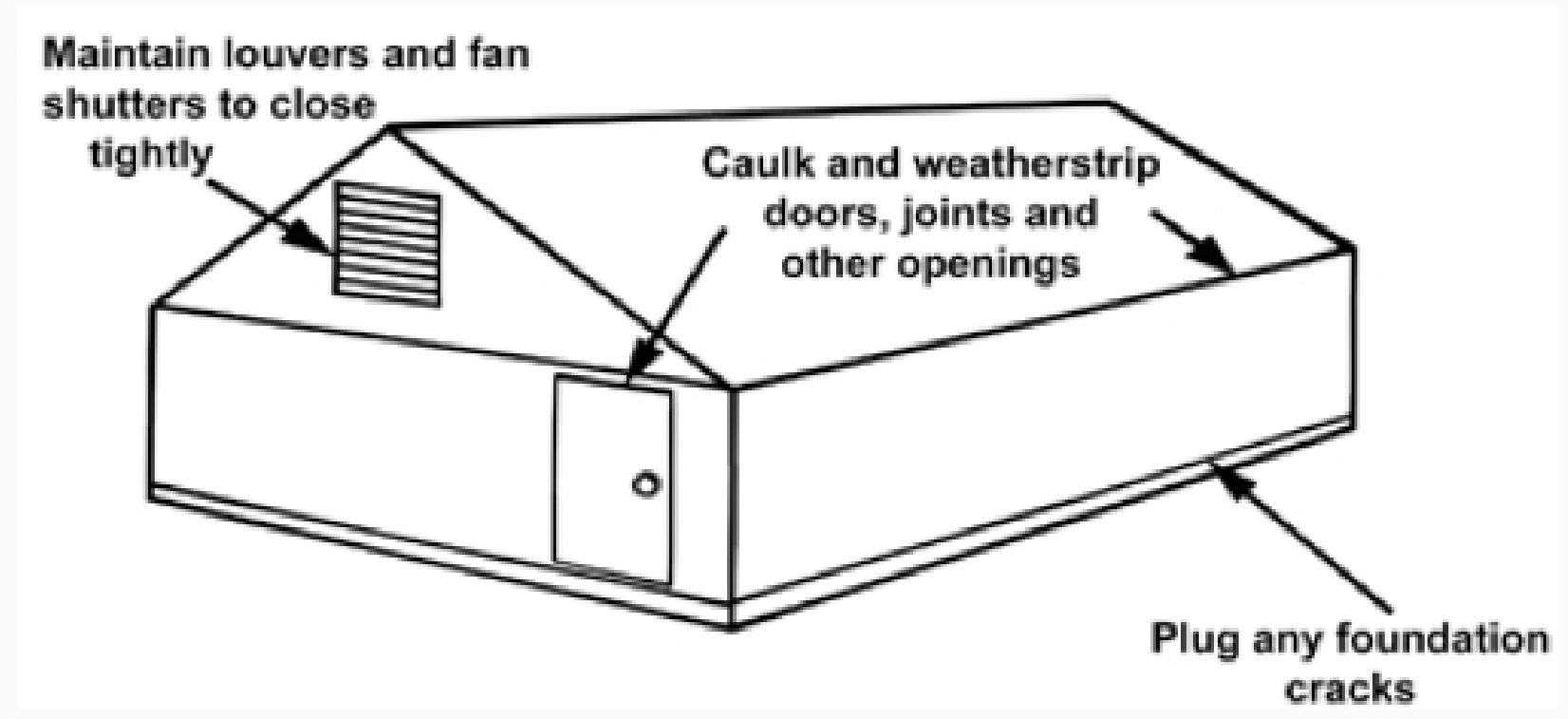
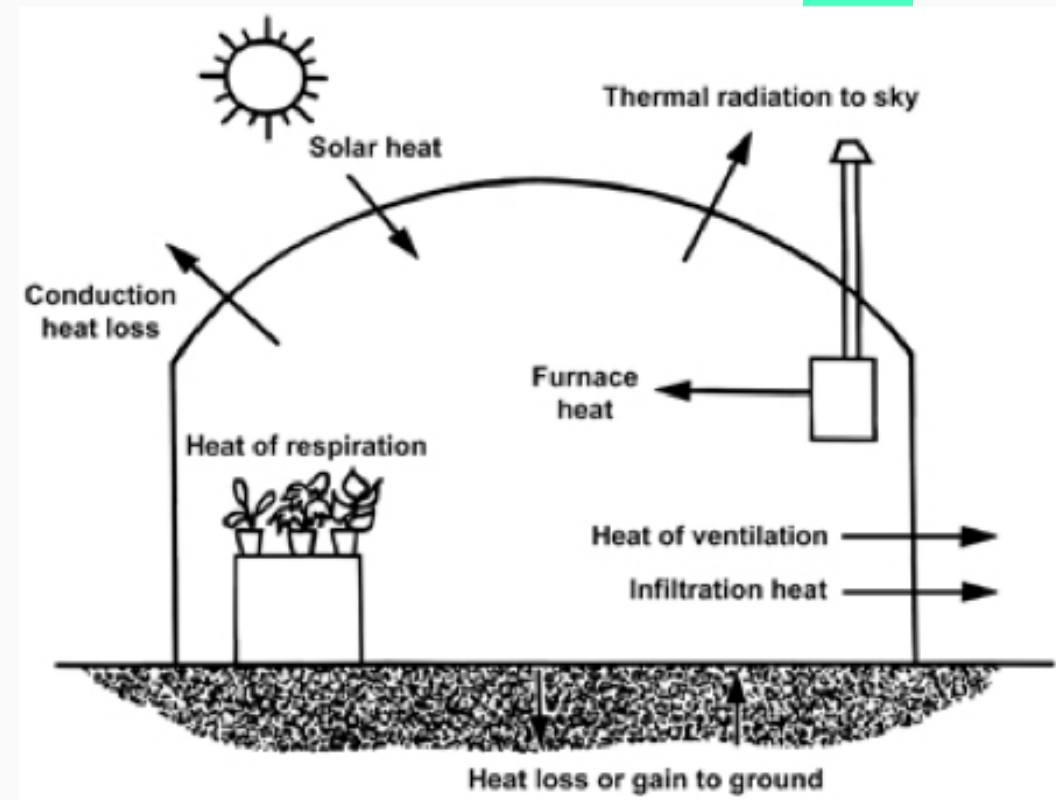
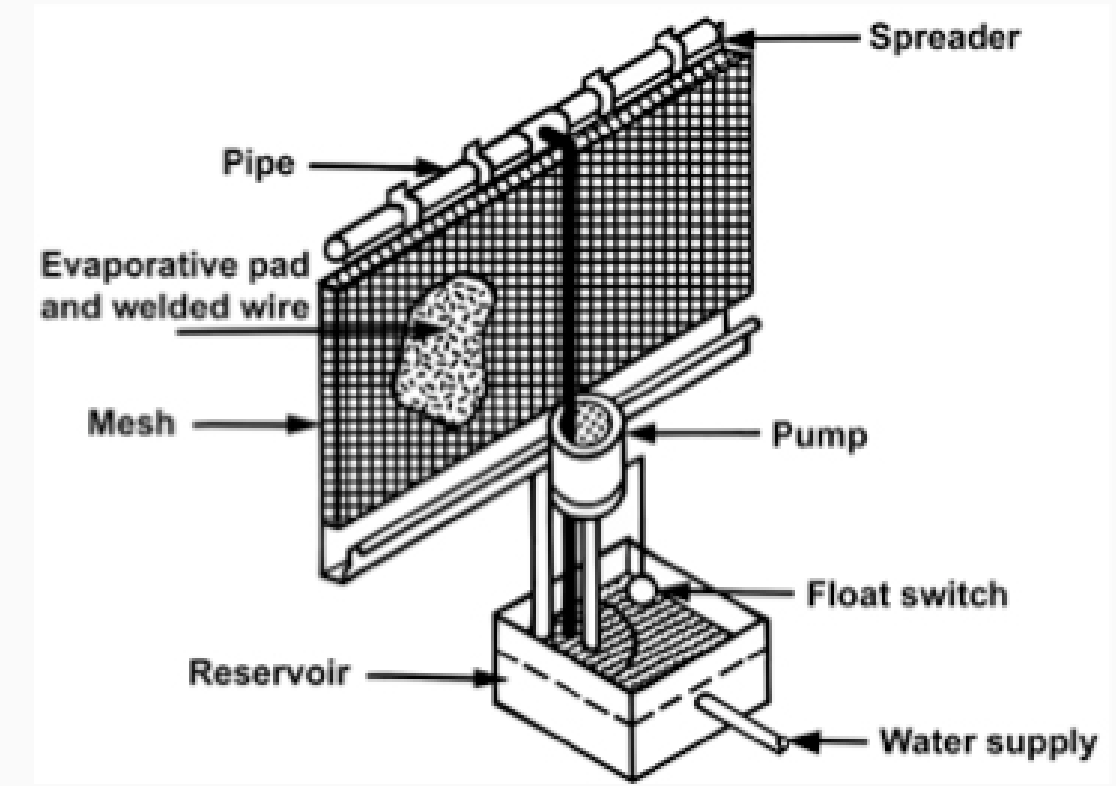
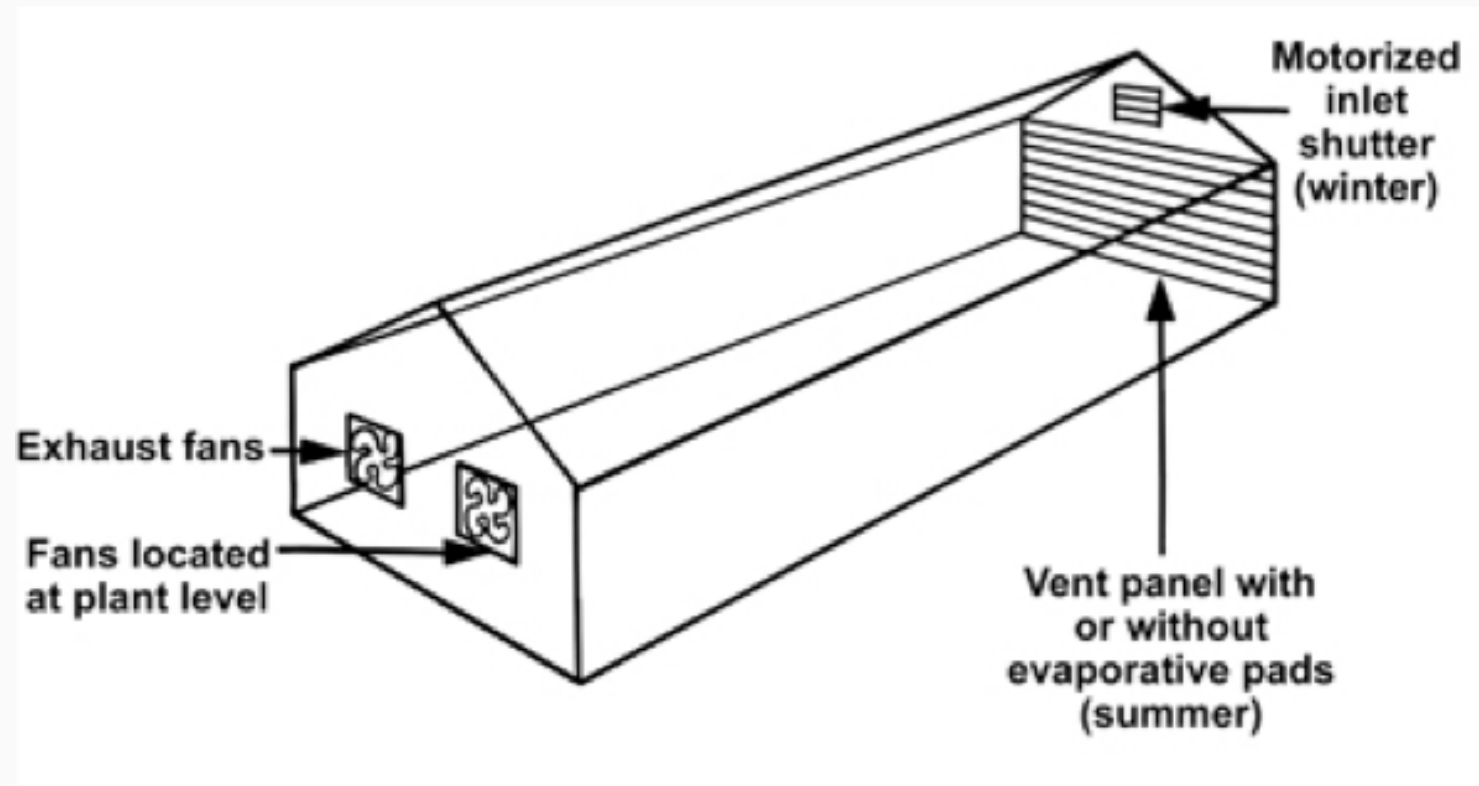


# Greenhouse Shapes and Styles



Hortitech Greenhouse: <https://www.greenhouseht.com/greenhouse-frames>

# GREENHOUSE DESIGN: HEATING, COOLING, VENTILATION



# Heating

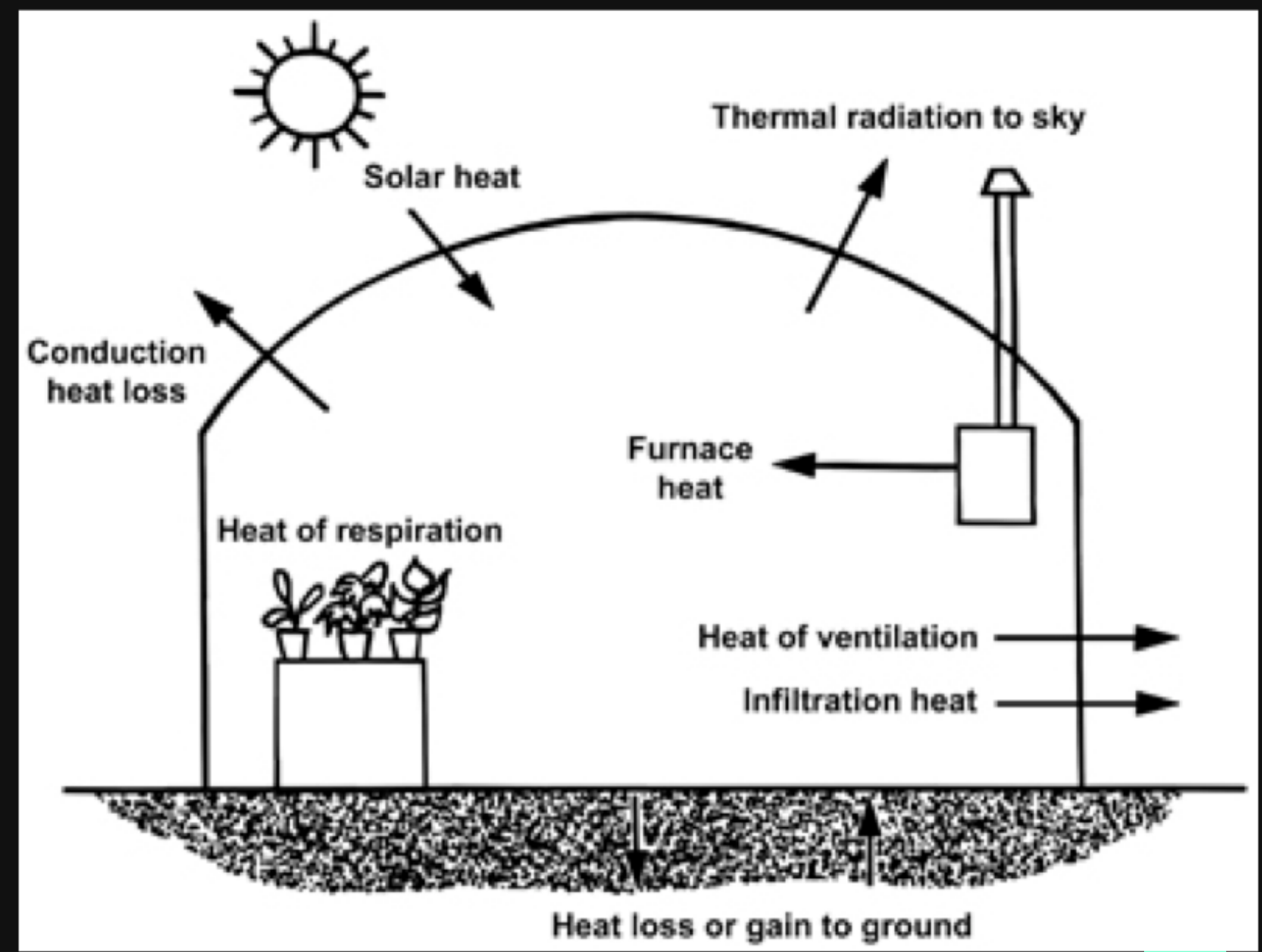
## Greenhouse Energy Balance

$$Q_{greenhouse} = \sum Q_{in} - \sum Q_{out}$$

$$Q_{greenhouse} = Q_{heater} - Q_{conduction}$$

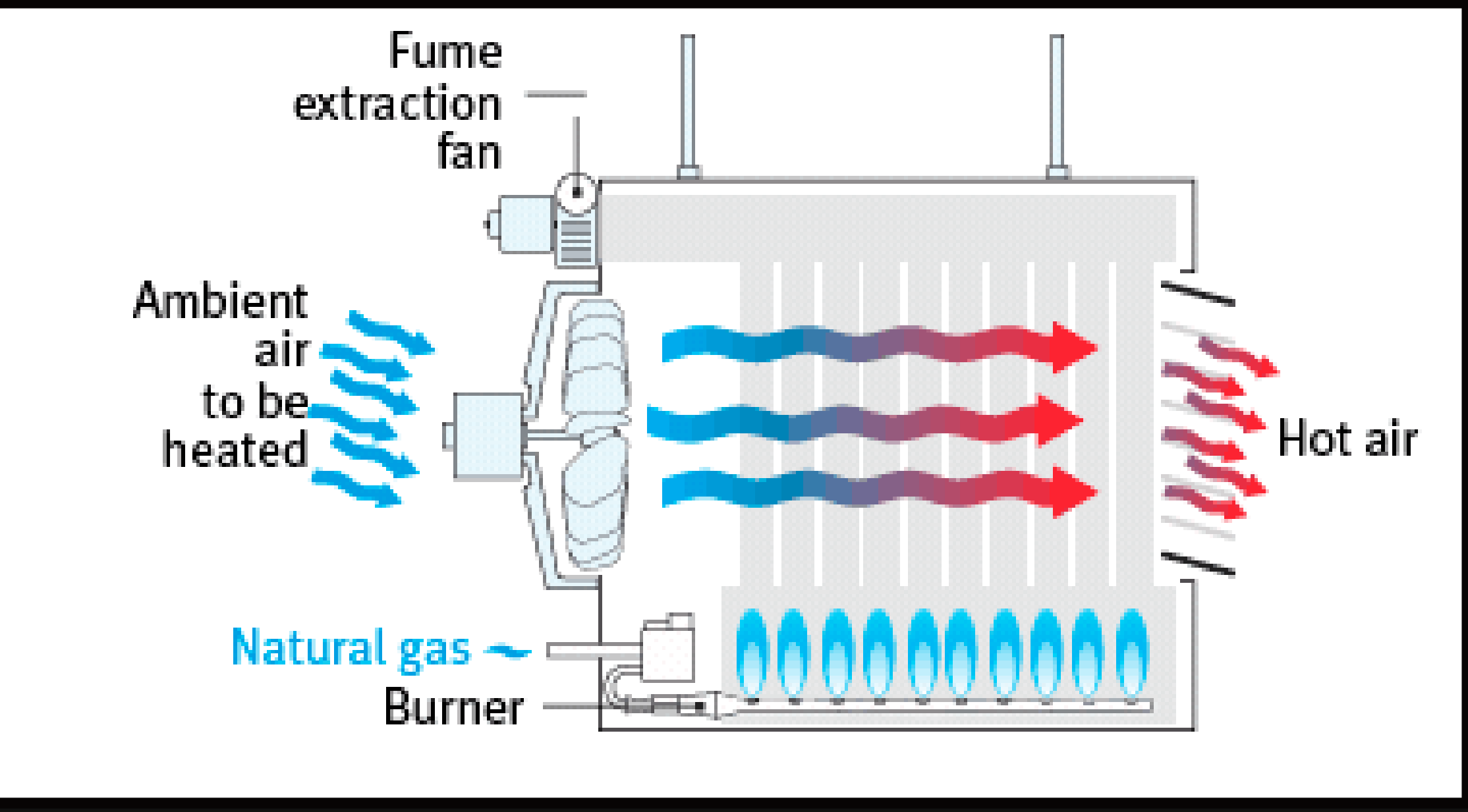
$$Q_{heater} = Q_{conduction}$$

$$Q_{conduction} = U A (T_{in} - T_{out})$$



U = heat transfer coefficient of the covering material in BTU/(hr °F ft<sup>2</sup>)

# Unit Heater

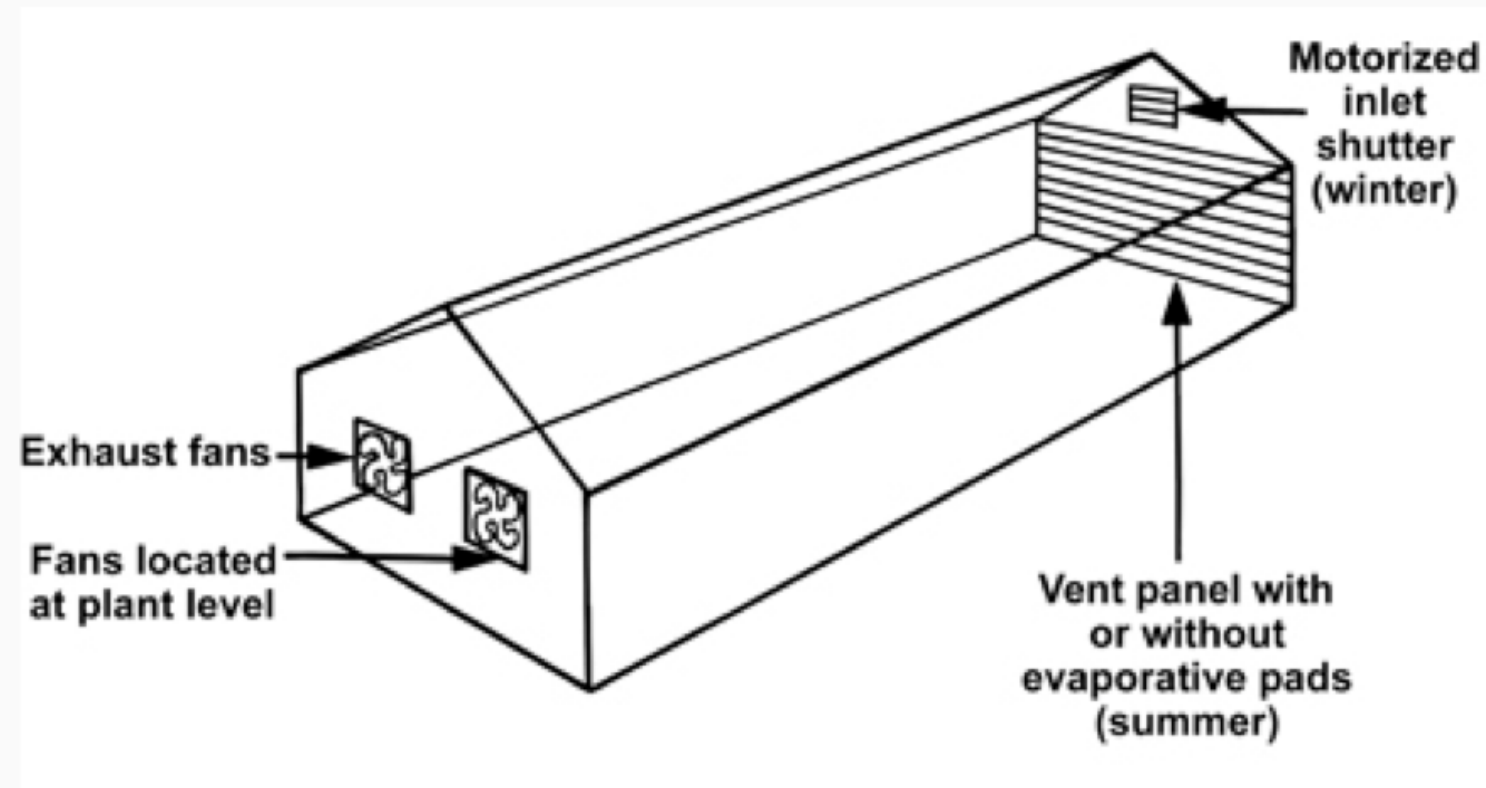


# Evaporative Cooling



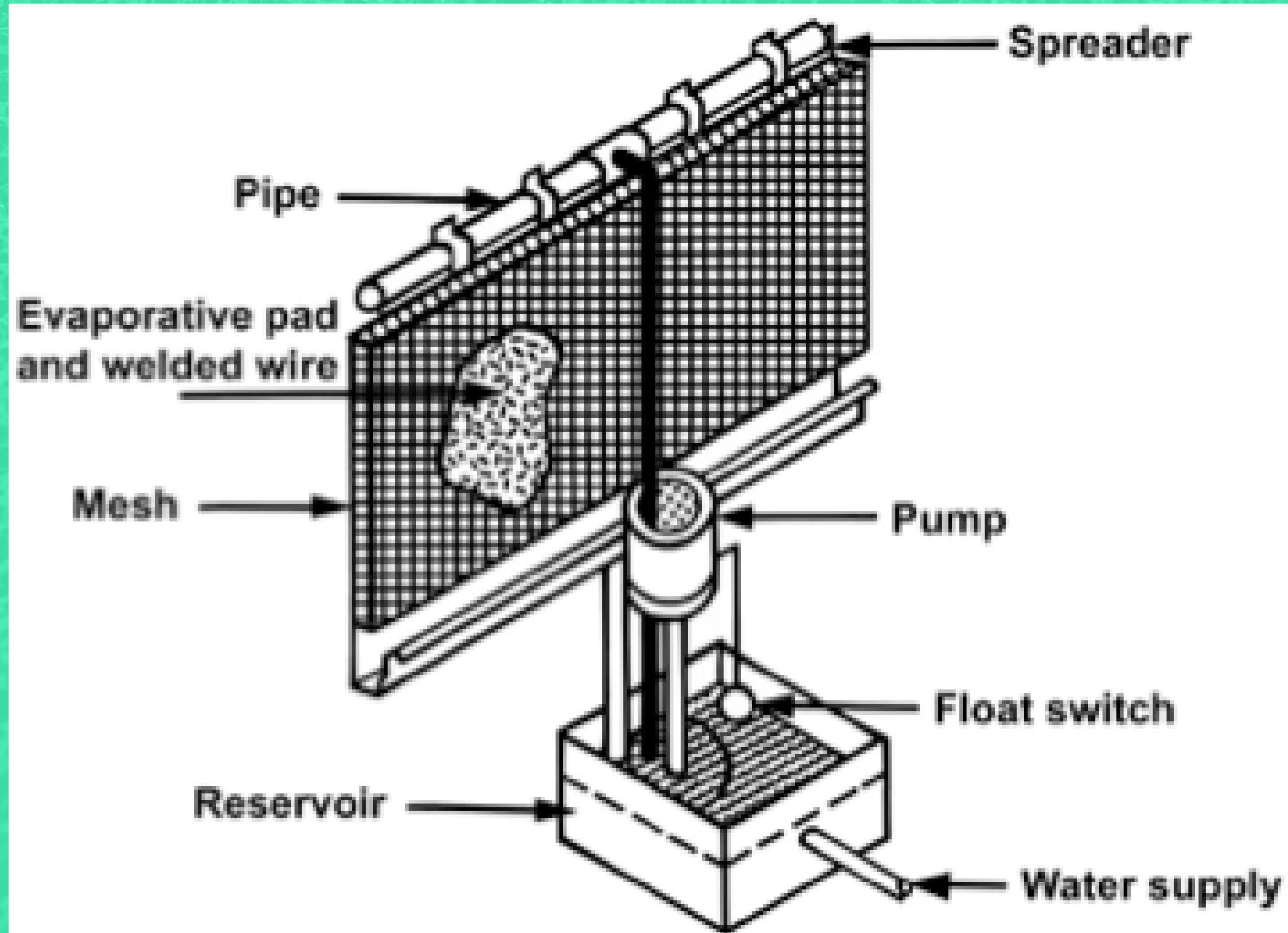
## WHY WE USE IT:

- Low energy consumption
- Dry climate





# Evaporative Cooling



# Climate Controller

## WHY WE USE IT:

- Temperature & Relative Humidity Sensors in the center of the room
- If it's too hot, too cold, or too humid, then cooling, heating, or ventilation systems are turned on



# Irrigation

**DRIP TAPE**



**DRIPPERS**



**MISTERS**



**HYDROPONIC SYSTEMS...**



# Food Module Authors



- **Dr. Murat Kacira**  
Module Lead  
*Biosystems Engineering*
- **Rebekah Waller**  
*Biosystems Engineering*
- **Jaymus Lee**  
*Biosystems Engineering*
- **Amy Pierce**  
*Biosystem Engineering*
- **Alexandra Trahan**  
*Environmental Science*
- **Ruth Pannill**  
*School of Natural Resources and the Environment*



# Energy Module Authors



- **Dr. Kelly Simmons-Potter**  
Module Lead  
*Electrical & Computer Engineering*
- Kyle Boyer  
*Electrical & Computer Engineering*
- Manuelito Chief  
*Electrical & Computer Engineering*
- Frances Willberg  
*Electrical & Computer Engineering*
- Anna Rich  
*Material Science & Engineering*
- William Borkan  
*Environmental Science*



# Water Module Authors



- **Dr. Robert Arnold**  
Module Co-Lead  
*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*
- **Dr. Karletta Chief**  
Module Co-Lead  
*Environmental Science*
- **Dr. Vasiliki Karanikola**  
Module Co-Lead  
*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*
- **Christopher Yazzie**  
*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*
- **Marisa Gonzalez**  
*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*
- **Sarah Abney**  
*Environmental Science*
- **Ciara Lugo**  
*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*
- **Ailyn Brizo**  
*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*



# Indigenizing Curriculum Contributors



- **Dr. Valerie Shirley**  
*Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies*
- **Dr. Karletta Chief**  
*Environmental Science*
- **Torran Anderson**  
*Community Engagement Coordinator*
- **Nikki Tulley**  
*Environmental Science*
- **JoRee LaFrance**  
*Environmental Science*
- **Marquel Begay**  
*School of Natural Resources & the Environment*
- **Manuelito Chief**  
*Electrical & Computer Engineering*
- **Christopher Yazzie**  
*Chemical & Environmental Engineering*

# The UArizona Indige-FEWSS NSF NRT would like to thank you for joining us today!

A NSF funded program in partnership with Diné College.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
RESEARCH, INNOVATION & IMPACT

Arizona Institutes  
for Resilience

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant #DGE1735173.

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation