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SOLARIG vs. TRADITIONAL GREENHOUSE POLY

SOLARIG is a woven coated fabric designed to diffuse the sunlight as it passes through the fabric. Diffused light then hits plant material inside the greenhouse from all angles and sides. Plants do not reach for or stretch for sunlight when sunlight is limited for several days in a row. Plants grow more compact and then proceed to their next stage more quickly than under traditional greenhouse covers.

The weave defuses the sunlight. The weave also gives Solarig its strength. Traditional poly has a breaking strength of 22 lbs per sq. ft., Solarig 172 has a breaking strength of 300 lbs per sq. ft. and Solarig 140 has a breaking strength of 265 lbs per sq. ft.

Traditional poly has basically two thicknesses and 2-corresponding warranties. 6-mil, 4-year warranty and 4-mil, 1-year warranty. Solarig also has 2-weights of fabric; Solarig 172, 5.1 oz per sq. yd., 6-year warranty and Solarig 140, 4.1 oz per sq. yd., 4-year warranty. All roof cover warranties are against UV breakdown.

Solarig can be used as a single or double roof layer. Single roof layers can be of either 172 or 140. The difference is the warranty period. Double layer roof covers should be Solarig 172 on top and 140 on the bottom. Double roof layers of 172 and 140 receive a 6-year warranty for both layers.

When either Solarig 172 or 140 is used as a single layer roof it is recommended that batten strips be used between greenhouse bows. Use of batten strips helps reduce slack in the roof cover. This in turn reduces wear from contact between the roof cover and the greenhouse bows when wind inflates the greenhouse then deflates the structure.

Solarig is made from the same material, which traditional greenhouse poly is made and therefore any chemical, which will shorten the life of traditional poly, will do the same for Solarig. Holes, cuts or tears can be patched with poly patch tape. The manufacturer is developing a repair tape made from woven fabric and with a stronger adhesive.

Solarig 172 and 140 comes from J&M with AF and IR, no other way. AF is a Dripless coating on one side of the roof cover. The roof cover is marked to identify which side points up and which points down. Traditional greenhouse poly does not come with Dripless properties, but you can pay extra for it. This coating on all roof covers lasts about 2 or 3 years. This coating can be reapplied by spraying on another layer. This is true for all greenhouse covers. The intent of Dripless is to force condensation, which forms on the underside of the roof cover, to run-off to the side instead of continuing to collect until it forms water drops large enough to fall down on you and your plants below. IR is Infra Red. IR slows the retained heat inside from leaving through the roof cover during cold nights. IR also keeps the temperature lower during the daytime high temperatures, about 6 to 9 degrees F. Again traditional poly is available with IR at an additional cost.

Solarig 172 (not 140) also has an additional benefit not found in traditional greenhouse poly films. Solarig 172 has UV blocking of invisible light rays in the Ultra Violet range beyond human sight. Many insects see in this light range. This means, on a clear bright sunny day that insect sees clearly in daylight outside a greenhouse covered with Solarig 172 but when it flies inside it is the darkest night for them. Insect populations will be reduced because it is easier for them to find food in daylight rather than dark of night. Pollinating bees eyes see at 3-different light levels. Their eyes are divide into 1/3's. 1-part of their eye see in the UV blocked level of Solarig 172 but 2/3 of the eye sees in the same light level as human sight. This means Solarig 172 UV blocking properties does not hinder the sight of bees, therefore the bee sees under Solarig 172 for pollination.

All of these benefits, Diffused Light, Increased Strength, AF and IR, Increased Life means your crop under Solarig will perform better for you than under traditional greenhouse poly and you will spend less money over the life of Solarig because you will spend less money buying replacement roof covers and less labor cost and time replacing roof covers.