

How to Use Reflective Tarps and Slip-on Covers

MARCH 2021

Factsheet 2 of 2 generated from the project *“Managing extreme heat with reflective tarps in the blueberry industry”* conducted by ICMS during the 2020 growing season

How to Use Reflective Tarps to Protect Harvested Fruit

- Various off-the-shelf reflective tarp sizes can be used to protect harvested fruit during day-to-day field operations.
- A 15' x 18' tarp will cover two pallets of hand lugs.
- Under windy conditions, weights or tie-downs should be added to secure the tarp.
- A reflective tarp can be used to protect harvested fruit at holding areas
- A cover can be used at direct sales stands to protect harvested fruit.
- It's recommended that two people be available to apply the tarps.



Protecting Individual Hand Lugs During Hand Picking

- A specially designed cover for hand lugs can be placed over the tray by pickers as they are in the field picking.
- This design is extremely easy to use by pickers, as it is simple to place on top of the tray. The design also allows for stacking of the trays if needed.
- Covers can be used on deep and shallow lugs
- Covers will protect harvested fruit from sunlight and heat as pickers fill the trays



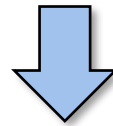
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How to Use Slip-on Covers to Protect Harvested Fruit

- Slip-on covers with specific dimensions for a pallet of hand lugs or a stack of totes provide protection on all sides of the stack as well as the top.
- The hand lug slip-on cover is designed to fit a 7 layer high stack and to provide clearance for the forklift.
- The tote slip-on cover is designed to fit a stack of four high and to provide clearance for the forklift.
- Placing the slip-on covers on the stacks in the field begins protecting harvested fruit from sunlight and heat immediately after picking.
- During transport, slip-on covers protect harvested fruit on the trucks/trailers as well as during long wait times at the processors.
- The slip-on covers fit securely and will not flap or blow off during transport.
- With practice and under ideal conditions, one worker can install the covers, but two workers are recommended.



Food Safety Compliance

- The use of reflective tarps and slip-on covers is recommended by the Provincial Food Safety Specialist as they help protect fruit from wildlife while in holding areas.
- When using reflective tarps and slip-on covers:
 - Prevent them from touching the ground.
 - Prevent them from touching the fruit.
 - Slip-on covers are designed to allow for a clean empty lug to be placed on top of a stack such that a cover can rest on it without contacting the fruit.
- If the reflective tarps or slip-on covers become dirty, wash with clean water or soap and water.
- **DO NOT USE SANITIZERS** as they can compromise the silver lining

[FINAL PROJECT REPORT AND FACT SHEET #1 AVAILABLE AT CLIMATEAGRICULTUREBC.CA](#)



[PROJECT PRESENTATION AT BC ACARN WORKSHOP DECEMBER 2020](#)



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