

This week Radio Nova looked at the advantages of polytunnels and greenhouses

**Polytunnels and Greenhouses**

A [small polytunnel](https://www.premierpolytunnels.co.uk/shop/polytunnels/6ft-wide/) or greenhouse is perfect for growing popular plants like tomatoes, and can be a great way to get kids into gardening. Additionally, they’re a great option for smaller outdoor spaces, from yards to cramped city gardens.

**Polytunnels Vs. Greenhouses**

Factors to consider….

**Purchase price:** Polytunnels are generally cheaper and require a smaller investment than greenhouses.

**Construction time:**Depending on the size, greenhouses can take longer to construct.

**Site preparation:** Ground must be level for a greenhouse while rougher ground can be more easily accommodated for a polytunnel.

**Lifespan:** Greenhouses can potentially last a lifetime, providing the glass doesn’t break or get blown out of the frame, whereas the covers on polytunnels will need replacing periodically, at a low cost, to maintain their efficiency.

**Heat retention:** Greenhouses often require more heat during the winter months, whereas a polytunnel covered with a [Thermal polythene](https://www.premierpolytunnels.co.uk/shop/accessories/polythene-films/) and without the drafts of a greenhouse, can help if you’re considering over-wintering crops.

**Sun and shade:** A diffused polythene sheeting on a polytunnel helps to prevent heat spots, but you may have to paint greenhouse panels to avoid sun damage, such as leaf scorch, to your produce.

**Transportability:**While both can be moved, greenhouses require more time and glass panels may present a higher risk of damage and injury.

