

## **“Weaving vs Stringing Tomatoes, which is more profitable?”**

Tim Taylor, Crossroad Farm

671 West Fairlee Rd., Fairlee, VT. 05045

[tim@crossroadfarm.com](mailto:tim@crossroadfarm.com)

The Take Home Message:

It depends! It depends upon a number of factors. Or should I say, upon reflection, one is not necessarily more profitable than another. It is more about the farmer's goals.

1. If the house is an inexpensive hoop house with low sides, then weaving is an excellent, choice. If the house is an expensive, wide, gothic style houses, then stringing is the best growing method.
2. If your work force is very skilled and adept at pruning, clipping etc., then stringing is the best choice. If the work force is inexperienced, then weaving is an alternative to consider.
3. If the goal of production is to get as many first clusters at one foot spacing, then stringing is the choice. If a goal of production is to limit the number of tomatoes necessary to grow and graft, then weaving is a possible choice.
4. If the goal of production is to grow lots of excellent tomatoes with the least amount of effort, then weaving is an excellent choice. If the goal of production is to grow the most tomatoes over the longest period of time, then stringing is the only choice.

Conclusion:

The decision to weave or string is dependent upon the farmer's goal. But if the farmer wants the most inexpensive way to grow tomatoes weaving is the method. It is quicker. There is little to no suckering, truss pruning, clipping, and fiddling with truss supports. The plants grow themselves.