

This column features questions from readers submitted via the website. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit **BarnyardsandBackyards.com**. If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to *Barnyards & Backyards!*



ask Sam

question

Dear Sam,

I have a tear in my hoop house. What would you recommend to patch tears and holes in the plastic?

Frank, Douglas

Dear Frank,

Discovering holes and tears in a plastic skin is very frustrating, especially in clear plastic coverings since tears spread very fast compared to fiber-reinforced covers. The larger the tear, the harder to get a strong patch that will hold over time.

Not all tapes and patches stick well to hoop house plastic. We have found Gorilla brand Clear Repair tape does a good job. It resists yellowing and is water, UV, and temperature resistant. This tape remains stuck to the polypropylene plastic surface for several years if applied properly. We also recommend adding a layer of fiber-reinforced tape. Both of these tapes can be found at most hardware stores. Clean the plastic with soap and water or glass cleaner before patching as dirt will keep any tape from sticking. The plastic must also be dry when patching.

Using a combination of clear Gorilla tape and Scotch brand or 3M brand fiber-reinforced tape is best to create the strongest patch. Start with Gorilla tape as it sticks better to the plastic than the fiber-reinforced tapes. Make sure to overlap

the area outside the tear area by at least 1 inch. Follow this with a layer of fiber tape over the Gorilla tape. Fiber reinforced tapes stick better to Gorilla tape than to poly film. Lastly, cover the patch with another layer of Gorilla tape to seal and protect the fiber tape from sun degradation. This method provides a strong patch and will last longer than other techniques we have tried. Put a piece of Gorilla tape on the inside of the hoop house over the tear as well to make the patch even stronger.

– Sam

answer

Correction:

There was an error on page 12 of the Summer 2016 issue. Montmorency cherry tree is rated to USDA Zone 4, not Zone 2. A corrected version of the article can be found at bit.ly/wyo cherry

Some relatively new bush cherry varieties coming out of a breeding program at the University of Saskatchewan are exhibiting more cold tolerance (USDA Zone 2 and 3). More information at <http://www.fruit.usask.ca/dwarfsourcherries.html> or bit.ly/dwarfcherry.

The 'Evans' or 'Bali' cherry is rated to USDA Zone 3 and is performing well in parts of Wyoming.

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P.O. Box 850
Casper, WY 82602
(800) 967-1647 • (307) 234-2700