

Historical Background of Greenhouses

Before the 20th century - Agriculture production inside protected structures was initiated in France and Netherlands in the 19th century. This method was applied in simple, low, glass structures, which provided climate protection, and were used mainly for the growth of ornamental plants.

Modern Times - By the beginning of the 20th century, mostly after the end of 2nd world war, the technology of greenhouse construction accelerated its development, especially in Western Europe cold countries, Netherlands leading the course. Agro-technical systems, aeration solutions and accompanying accessories were gradually added to the structures, while the structure foundations improved to the known, traditional heavy steel constructions covered by rigid glass boards.

New Materials - By the end of the 50ties of the 20th century the greenhouses technology flowed to the north and center of Europe, extending its influence and benefits to Israel, where a wave of experiments and research in the field had begun. The 60ties revealed a new kind of structure covering sheets. They were the flexible, low priced polyethylene sheets, which caused a conceptual revolution in the field of greenhouses. Simultaneously appeared other types of good light transition coverings, such as polycarbonate (a kind of covering made of plastic polymers) leaving behind the traditional glass covering.

New Technologies - The method of modular structures (Lego-like method) leads to the development of growth technologies suitable for most types of crops, thus creating customized structure projects, customer-tailored according to specific needs. This new trend caused the breakdown of the traditional, conservative Dutch hegemony ruling until then in the field of greenhouses. Nowadays, light-weighted structures with covering made of flexible polyethylene or stiff-flexible polycarbonate are more common and widespread than the mythological rigid glass greenhouses.