

Innovative new portable
curing system for burley
tobacco.

Goals

- [1] To change the method of transfer of tobacco from field to curing structure.
- [2] To incorporate quality control features.
- [3] To reduce the number of touches by the human hand in harvesting to 1 or 2.



Original prototype



Lexan Catching Devices





Actual filling of Tobacco Pallet



Starting point loaded, ready to accept additional pallets.

Dr. Bailey's data

Grayson Curing Structure																						
UKREC, Princeton, KY - October 17, 2011																						
Burley NC7, set June 1, 40" rows x 20" plant spacing (7841 plants/acre)																						
2 workers, 2 Lexan panels																						
Worker	Plants	Cut Time (min:sec)	Hang Time (min:sec)																			
1	72	3:40	7:40																			
2	72	2:22	6:24																			
Plants cut in the field by hand and loaded on flatbed wagon (forks not long enough on forklift to take panels to tobacco)																						
Wagon moved approx. 80 ft. to Grayson structure for hanging																						
Went back and cut another 15 plants to finish filling structure (0:32 for 1 worker cutting), and 15 plants hung on Grayson structure (1:16 for 1 worker to finish loading structure)																						
Structure covered on top with black plastic (did not get enough plastic on sides to allow adequate protection)																						
Tobacco taken down December 8 and stripped																						
Tobacco battered from wind on outside layers but good cure within structure.																						