

Chat ROOM

Editor's Note: Each month, we send out a survey to our readers on a variety of topics and report the results here. Chat Room is a perfect venue to get to know your peers and where you stand on different issues affecting the industry. Do you have a question you want us to ask? Contact editor, Jasmina Dolce, at jdolce@greatamericanpublish.com.

This month, we asked readers about environmental control systems, lighting investments and working with local Extension agents. Here's what they had to say.

Do you use an environmental control system in your greenhouse?

MORE THAN 60% SAID YES!

Which environmental factors do you regulate using a control system?

The top three factors are:

#1 VENTILATION #2 LIGHT #3 HUMIDITY

What challenges have you encountered while using environmental controllers?

You said:

“ Having the right structure for the main environmental controllers existent in the market. ”

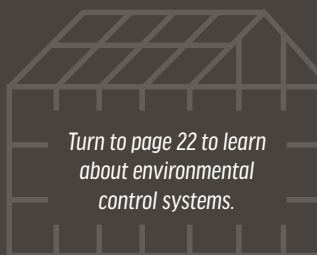
“ A delay in sensitivity and timing with sudden outdoor weather changes. ”

“ Costly to repair and replace. ”

“ Having to change all the settings seasonally; can be difficult to navigate. ”

“ Uniformity of control. ”

“ Different set points for each crop, but sharing one range. ”



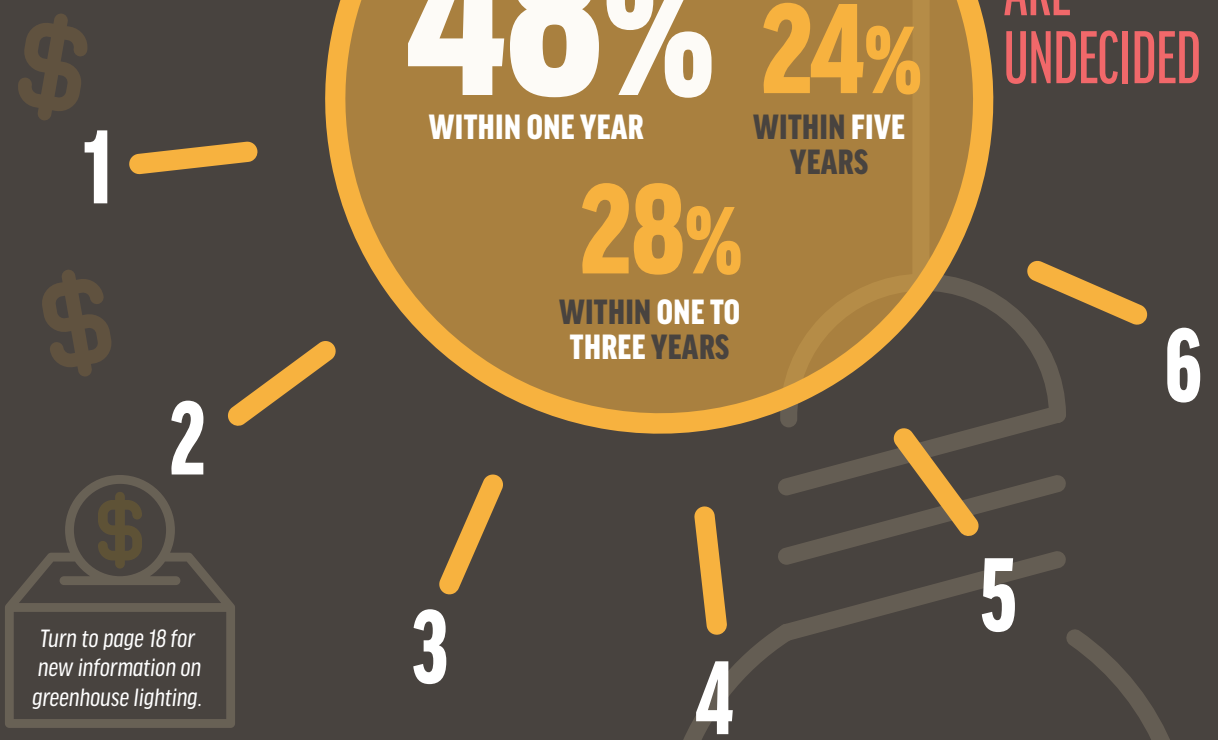
Do you plan to invest in new greenhouse lighting in the near future?

MORE THAN 30% SAID YES

AND 25% ARE UNDECIDED

For those considering investing in new lighting, when do you plan to make a purchase?

48% WITHIN ONE YEAR
24% WITHIN FIVE YEARS
28% WITHIN ONE TO THREE YEARS



Turn to page 18 for new information on greenhouse lighting.

Do you consult with any local Extension agents?

47% SAID YES!



What topics do you discuss and explore with Extension agents?

- “ Soil testing and amendments. ”
- “ Greenhouse lighting. ”
- “ IPM and chemical integrations. ”
- “ Grant opportunities and educational programming. ”
- “ Better solutions for the environment and sustainable agriculture. ”
- “ New pests/diseases plus biocontrol practices. ”