

Stop 384 Adult Tour – Shading Panels, Cool Temperate House

The Botanic Garden's individual greenhouses were especially built at varying elevations to assure that no house would be fully shaded by another. But that could cause trouble during certain times of the year for some plants located on the southern side of the conservatories.

Rob: “*During the summer months we often will have very intense sun, so we have to protect some of these plants otherwise their leaves will scorch. We have a number of ways where we shade the plants. We have a retractable shading system that’s on the inside of the greenhouse up at the roof, and this is mechanically controlled so we can lower and raise these shade panels as we need them.*”

Another strategy consists of using white latex paint on the outside of some of the greenhouse windows to shield plants from the sun. When the days get shorter, the paint is scrubbed off until the next summer season. Blocking out some of the sun not only reduces excessive light levels, but also helps us control excessive heat. The combined use of ventilation and shading makes it possible to maintain reasonable temperatures during the hottest part of the year.