

Awards Open, Big News in Vertical Farming, Nature Fresh Leafy Greens,  
Question for You!

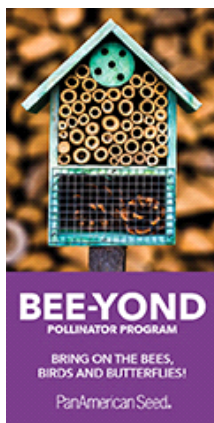


*Greenhouse vegetable news from GrowerTalks magazine*



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# inside GROWER

Controlled Environment Agriculture

## COMING UP THIS WEEK:

Quick Question  
Soli and 80 Acres Merger  
Nature Fresh Leafy Greens  
CEAs Nominations Open  
Canadian Greenhouse  
Conference  
BioTherm Heating Video

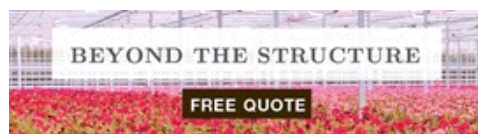
Transform  
Your  
Productivity

## Quick Question

These past few weeks have been about as wild as it gets for indoor ag. Major mergers, big players jumping into new niches, and real gains in automation; it feels like we're on the verge of new paradigms in indoor growing.

I want to hear from you, *Inside Grower* readers, about your biggest challenges heading into fall. With summer winding down, what's at the top of your list to prep for winter? Send me an email ([just reply here](#)). Your state or province and a single number from the list below is plenty; a few details are a bonus.

- 1 – Winterizing your greenhouse (climate system changes, adding insulation over fans and pads, removing whitewashing)
- 2 – Adding new technology (Lights, dehumidification, automation)
- 3 – Labor (finding workers, upskilling)
- 4 – Pest and disease management
- 5 – New varieties and plant types
- 6 – Sales, marketing and customer acquisition
- 7 – Logistics (shipping, cold storage, packaging)
- 8 – Expansion (new construction, adding more infrastructure, relocating)
- 9 – Other (tell me about it)



Irrigation | Glazing & Coverings | Controllers  
Heating | Benching | Lighting

## Soli Organic and 80 Acres Farms Merge

In a dark world of bankruptcies and closures, two vertical farms worth watching closely are 80 Acres Farms and Soli Organic. Have they finally cracked the code to profitable, sustainable indoor farming? This past Monday, two of the fastest-rising stars in indoor ag, Soli Organic and 80 Acres Farms, announced a strategic merger.

Soli Organic's story is unique. Founded in 1989 as Shenandoah Growers and rebranded in 2021, the Virginia-based company is the rare vertical farm to evolve from field production to greenhouse cultivation, and ultimately into a fully indoor vertical farm. Even more distinct, Soli is the only major indoor farm I know of that doesn't rely solely on hydroponics. Instead, they grow in a substrate-based system that qualifies for full USDA organic certification.

Now pair that history with the rapid expansion of 80 Acres Farms. Just a few months ago, the company acquired three vertical farms in Georgia, Texas and Colorado from Kalera. They've been on a growth streak, and this partnership only accelerates the pace.

The combined company will operate under the 80 Acres Farms brand and is projecting nearly \$200 million in first-year revenue. With Soli's long-term sustainability record and 80 Acres Farms' momentum, we may finally learn whether indoor farming can deliver on the prosperity it's been promising for the past decade.



## Nature Fresh Leafy Greens

In my greenhouse, we run two main categories of systems—one for leafy greens and another for vine crops and berries. When I visit commercial growers, I rarely see both under the same roof. That makes Nature Fresh Farms' announcement of a partnership with Revol Greens remarkable.

Nature Fresh has been a dominant producer of vine crops, spanning over 2,500 acres under glass across Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. I often pick up their tomatoes at my local store, in part because they're growing interesting varieties that stand out on the shelf.

The explosion of leafy greens in CEA has been no secret. Companies like Gotham Greens, Little Leaf Farms and BrightFarms have been scaling quickly. The partnership between Revol Greens and Nature Fresh aims to combine Revol's expertise and facilities with the brand recognition that Nature Fresh brings. For consumers, that could mean a single label offering both fresh greens and flavorful vine crops year-round.

Learn more about the partnership [here](#).



Image courtesy of Revol / Nature Fresh



## It's Time—CEAs Nominations Are Open!

*By Jen P.*

It's time to tell us all about yourself, and possibly get recognized for all your hard work, via the Cultivating Excellence Awards (the CEAs for short), presented by Indoor Ag-Con and *Inside Grower* magazine. Nomination forms for this year's awards are now open for three categories:

**Operational Excellence**—Recognizing a single CEA commercial grower that delivers quality products while distinguishing itself through innovation in production, technology, marketing and/or overall strategy.

**Good Stewardship**—Recognizing a commercial indoor grower that showcases exemplary initiative in resource conservation, recycling, employee development and/or community service.

**Product Innovation**—Celebrating an innovative product that solves critical industry challenges and drives customer value.

Once nomination forms are in, we'll choose three finalists in each category. Each of those companies will receive one All-Access Pass to Indoor Ag-Con at the Westgate, Las Vegas, February 11-12, 2026, as well as an invite to the Gala Luncheon where we'll announce the winners on February 11.

Our winners will be featured in upcoming issues of *Inside Grower* magazine. **Don't delay, make sure you complete your entry [HERE](#) today!**

You can click [HERE](#), too, for a quick overview of last year's winners. And, for more in-depth coverage, you can read full stories on the winners of [Operational Excellence](#), [Good Stewardship](#) and [Product Innovation](#).





## Canadian Greenhouse Conference Begins October 8

If you're looking for a trip that blends work with a bit of vacation, the Canadian Greenhouse Conference (CGC) is an excellent option. This year's event takes place October 8–9 (Wednesday and Thursday) in Niagara, Ontario. Beyond the conference, you'll be right next to the scenic Niagara Falls and only half an hour from Niagara-on-the-Lake, one of Canada's top wine regions. It's a perfect time of year to extend your stay into the weekend.

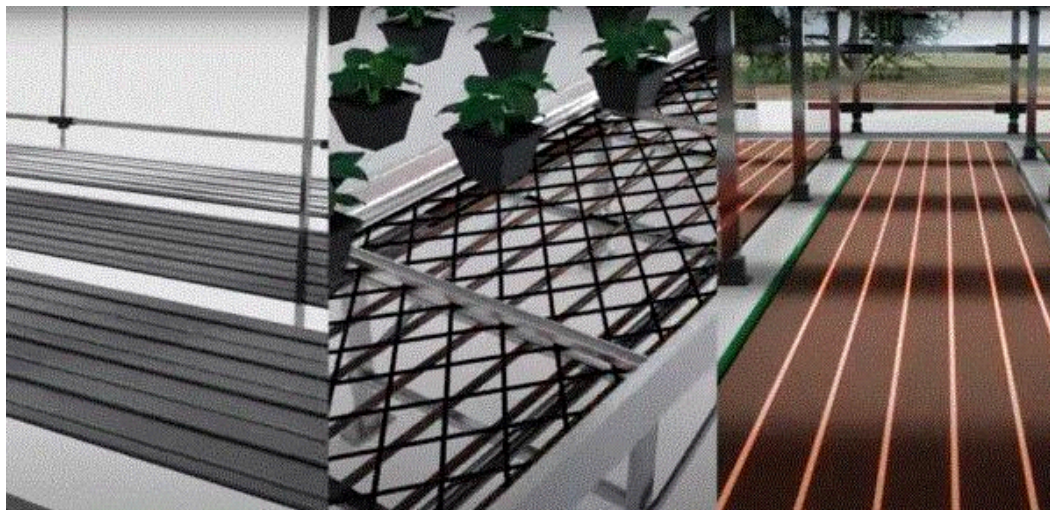
The CGC will feature 300+ booths along with the widely acclaimed bus tour. Spots for the tour are limited, so follow the link to [register for the conference](#) and secure your place on [the bus tour](#) today!

## BioTherm Greenhouse Heating Video

For those of you wonderful people who already sent me a "1" (thank you!), here's something you'll want to see. BioTherm has released a new video on their hydronics system, a water-based heat transfer solution that's efficient, versatile and grower-friendly.

The video showcases applications ranging from under-bench heating to greenhouse roof snowmelt, highlighting just how adaptable these systems are. What makes BioTherm stand out is the scalable design and simple installation. Whether you're running a large commercial facility or a small greenhouse where you handle the install yourself, their system offers an energy-smart way to keep crops thriving through the cold months.

Check out the [video link](#) and [BioTherm's website](#).



Three ways to heat your greenhouse featured in BioTherm's video.

Dr. Jake Holley  
Editor-at-Large  
*Inside Grower*

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