There are generally, two types of trellis systems in the southeast, the Single curtain and the Geneva double curtain. The single curtain is probably the easiest and least expensive of the trellising systems. However, the Geneva allows the producer to trellis two plants in a single area. If you intend to grow organically please refer to organic guidelines for system components.

Diagram 1. Single Curtain Trellis

Building the Single Curtain Trellis System
Start by digging the holes for your brace and line post. Brace post should be 3' in the ground while line post are 2' in the ground the distance from brace post to your first line post is 10’. The distance from line post to line post is 20’. Try to keep rows around 150-200’ to avoid putting too much stress on your trellising system (the longer the rows the great the weight).

Put your post in the ground, stand them and line them as straight as possible and back fill. You may choose to use cement here, to secure the post. Now that your post are in the ground you can began putting on the wire. Wrap the wire around the brace post 3 or 4 times and staple. Continue by stapling the wire to the top of each line post at a 45 degree angle. Between the last line post and final brace post add a turn buckle. You will use this to keep the line tight in the future. Finally, wrap the wire around the final brace post and staple.

You have just built a single curtain trellis system. Consider spacing your rows at a 10-12ft apart to allow access for a truck or tractor. Or you may decide to do a little alley cropping.

Diagram 2. Geneva Double Curtain Trellis

Building a Geneva Double Curtain Trellis System
Using the same general information for the single curtain, add a one foot arms on each side of your post. Once the arms are secure, continue forward as if each side were a single curtain trellis system.

THE SINGLE CURTAIN
Components
Fence Post (commonly wood, metal, or concrete)
Line Post 4-5” diameter x 7’ long
Brace Post 8” diameter x 8’ long (rows longer than 200’ substitute rail crosstire)
Galvanize wire 9-12 gauge
Turn buckles 1 per row
Staples for each line post 3/4”

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