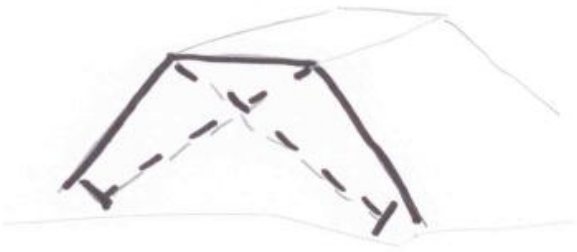
Ideas to secure cage in windy weather.

Our system is a lightweight free standing system. Wind can be an issue. It is not scientific. I have had some clients tell me the cage did fine in 50mph+ winds (even I was suspicious), while others have said it tipped over in what they thought were moderate winds. If you live in a windy climate, the best idea is to put your cage near (within 3-4') some sort of barrier, like house, fence, or trees. Generally, wind is not an issue when it is near a barrier of some sort. If that is not possible and wind is an issue in your locale, the following may help. It is not perfect and may not work for everyone. These are some ideas that I and some of my clients have tried with success.

1). Ropes on the ends.

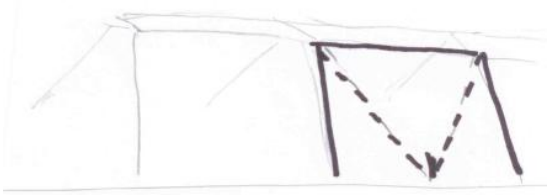


On each end, run ropes from the roof corner connectors to a stake on the opposite side. Put the stakes at a decent angle, so the ropes won't pull up out of the ground. There will be a big X pattern at the end. This should prevent swaying at the top and keep the rope on the inside of the cage so kids won't trip over it. For 40' and 50' cages this should work for reasonable winds.

2). One inch conduit or rebar.

Cut 1" conduit into 2-2.5' lengths and pound them into the ground the same angle as the leg poles. Stick the leg poles inside the 1" conduit. Some have drilled a hole and either used a bolt or wire to fasten the leg pole inside the 1" conduit. I thought the cage might still sway at the top in windy climate, but many of my clients have said this works for them. Or use rebar and tie the leg pole to the rebar.

3). Longer cages - 60' or 70'.



Not only do you put the rope on the ends, but also on each side add some tie downs. There is more surface area with a 70' cage so having an extra tie down on each side may help in windy climate. About half way down on each side, between a leg pole, put a stake in the ground and attach a rope. Run one end to a roof side connector nearest the stake and do the same on the other side of the stake. There will be a big V pattern on the side.

4). Raise the net off the ground using S hooks, clothes pins, or twist ties. This will allow a path for the wind to blow under the cage and not have it has as much resistance.

5). Similar to above, but put hooks on the leg poles about 8' off the ground. These are one sided hooks and can be attached with radiator hose clamps or even duct tape. Lift the net up onto the hooks when not in use. Also good for mowing under the cage.

6). If a storm is coming and you have warning, simply take the net off the frame and lay it on the ground until the storm passes by. Certainly, take the net down if a hurricane is coming.