

VEGETARIAN

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MR. COUNTY AGENT:

Many of you and your vegetable growers are considerably concerned about the PESTICIDE TOLERANCE status....and rightly so.

IT'S NOT SIMPLE

We wouldn't want to be accused of over-simplifying the problems raised.... because it's probably going to be everything but simple before all is said and done....what with such things as initially fixing tolerances on standard pesticides, keeping up with new chemicals, research on ways of insuring safe practical usage, adjusting recommendations to fit research results, enforcing, and what have you?

But haven't we been exposed all along to some of the same problems likely to be encountered?

Sure, things in the tolerance picture are going to be cloudy for a while. What can you as a county agent do at this particular point that will help now and later?

BASIC REASONING APPLY?

Well, we've wondered about it too....and don't say we have the answer.... but we seem to keep coming back to what appears to us a very basic consideration. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR PROMISCUOUS RECOMMENDATIONS OR USAGE OF PESTICIDES. Both exist...Mind you, friend, this is not saying all recommendations and usage are included.

RESEARCH HAS A START

A tremendous task faces research to determine where these limits lie and how to stay within them....and we're proud to say that there was foresight enough to get work along these lines underway several years ago! It means that with this head start, although limited, we can hope we are many steps more toward the answers and how to best arrive at them in the future.

SOME ANSWERS THE SAME

When research begins to come through we predict you'll find yourselves and your growers continuing to have a need for some of the same answers which apply today. SUGGEST AND USE ONLY RECOMMENDED MATERIALS, AND IN THE RECOMMENDED MANNER.

Less attention is indicated toward high-pressure promotions, substituting concoctions for diagnosis, little's good so more's better, and so on. More attention is needed for doing a good job with what we have....such as timing, coverage, rates, supervision, and frequent observation. If a pesticide does the job properly applied on a 7- to 10-day schedule, and it's being put on at 2 1/2 hours every way but right....something's amiss now or when tolerances become fully enforced.

TWO ENDS AND THE MIDDLE

Some operators may have only a few adjustments to make; others may need a new leaf to turn over. In either event, in your area you'll do well to start the conditioning process now for later. You can't lose. You'll have a good chance at saving some headaches both times.

BEDDING SWEET POTATO SEED:....it's that time for many of you.

Looks like there's going to be lots of interest in sweet potatoes this year. We can't guarantee the money end....but we'll guarantee you some steady inquiries!

Might not be a bad idea to pay some early attention to a few important items such as:

Bed only GOOD SEED this year; it's a foundation for quality and yields. Use only seed stock that is known to be free of any signs of disease, insects and injury, and that has been carefully selected in the field at harvest for seed purposes.

Thoroughly explore possibilities of insuring reliable seed SOURCES. Clean-looking seed is one thing; trueness to variety can be another. Florida does not have a complete Certified Seed Program on sweet potatoes. Several nearby states have; we can furnish lists of growers of certified stock.

Don't jump all the way into new varieties, just because they sound good on paper. The standard VARIETY of the vining-type continues to be Unit No. 1 or Copper-Skinned Porto Rico, with Heart-o-gold and Earlyport promising in North Florida.

On receiving and prior to bedding seed stock RE-EXAMINE it closely. If a root is questionable, discard it. Always handle with care.

In LOCATING the plant bed, convenience will mean a lot in later management. Plan an adequate water supply. Avoid areas where drainage water from old fields may run.

How about passing along some of these or similar reminders to your growers.... accompanied by a copy of the SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION GUIDE or appropriate excerpts?

DADE COUNTY POTATO GROWERS FIELD DAY....held February 15th.

Don't repeat us, but they said the other day at Homestead that it was so cold even the late blight didn't come out....plenty of growers and industry folks did, however.

A briefed down version of potato research viewed follows: (East Glade Farm, Sub-Tropical Experiment Station)

Fungicide Trials: Included nabam plus manganese, zinc, or copper; maneb; zineb; captan; tribasic copper plus Mn alone or Mn plus dichlone; cuproside. Neither foliage disease nor insects troublesome to date; data, if any, will be based on yields; not yet harvested.

Seed Treatment: Bliss Triumph and Dakota Chief: suberized 48 hours; cut and plant at once; captan; semesan-bel; antibiotics; zineb; maneb; formaldehyde. Little seedpiece decay had occurred; unless some treatments adversely affect yields, only limited information will be obtained.

Fertilizer Experiment: Included 500, 1000, 2000 lbs. of 5-10-10 per acre, 1000 lbs. of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10-10, and a no-fertilizer check. Planted in mid-November; no differences in vine growth apparent to date; any yield responses will be measured.

Variety Plots: Includes many numbered lines from USDA breeding programs; also testing seed sources of LaSoda and Bliss Triumph from Tennessee, North Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado. Pontiac variety, checking 1 and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce seedpieces at 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 inch spacing; also checking several 2,4-D treatments for any intensification of red skin color.

Can't go by without mentioning variety trials with other vegetables. These plots again included most crops grown in the area and many others. For example, Florida 201-2 pole bean in comparison to several Blue Lakes and standard varieties. Also, there were test plantings of such crops as brussel sprouts, parsnips, carrots and fennel.

Might mention we observed very few people turning hand-springs over the taste of fennel. Very few before tasting, too...

VEGETABLE FIELD DAYS COMING UP....watch for them.

Lots of inquiries about vegetable field day plans....many people need a little advance notice to adjust effectively when final dates are announced.

Here's some information on likely periods field days will be held over the state this year. Last year's date is given as a guide for what it's worth.

<u>Station Location</u>	<u>Last Year's Date</u>	<u>1955 Indicated Period</u>
Hastings	Mar. 11	Mar. 15 definite
Homestead(tomato)	Mar. 18	Mar. 28-Apr. 1
Ft. Lauderdale	None held	April 18-29
Ft. Pierce	May 5	About same
Belle Glade	May 4	May 9-20
Bradenton	May 6	1-2 wks. later
Sanford	May 14	About same
Gainesville	May 20	About same
Leesburg	May 27	About same

Note that the 1955 Field Day at the Potato Investigations Laboratory, Hastings, is already scheduled for March 15th. We'll be forwarding more details on these as we get them. Remember, it's very difficult and almost impossible in some cases to pick the best date very far in advance.

However, it's our observation that an early tentative announcement setting the probable period in which a given date will fall will do a lot toward alerting local, area- and statewide individuals. Try it.

Your growers and other nearby folks would appreciate a reminder NOW on your local plans, but....remember that a large and equally important portion of those usually attending have interests in a number of areas.

TOMATO PLANT REGULATIONS....other states.

A mimeo from the State Plant Board, 2/21/55, reminds us your growers should know that several states have regulations governing shipment of plants into them. The mimeo summarizes current regulations; you might want to check-up again.

Requests for inspection and certification of tomato plants for shipment to states requiring certification should be made in advance to the State Plant Board.

Florida does not have any regulations on the movement of tomato plants into or within the State.

Sincerely,

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2/25/55
250 copies

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