

VEGETARIAN

University of Florida
Gainesville
April 8, 1959

Gentlemen:

This is the time for the Branch Experiment Stations and the Main Station to begin preparing for their Vegetable Field Days.

Here are the dates and times of the ones that have been set:

Plantation Field Laboratory, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Thursday, April 16, 1959 at 1:30 P.M.

Indian River Field Laboratory, Ft. Pierce, Florida
Wednesday, April 29, 1959, at 1:30 P.M.

Everglades Experiment Station, Belle Glade, Florida
Thursday, May 7, 1959, at 9:00 A.M.

Central Florida Experiment Station, Sanford, Florida
Thursday, May 14, 1959, at 1:30 P.M.
Zellwood - Friday, May 15, 1959, at 9:00 A.M.

Gulf Coast Experiment Station, Bradenton, Florida
Probably the first or second week in May but will be confirmed later

Main Station, Gainesville, Florida
First week in June but will be confirmed later

There are several things that need to be brought out in vegetable production and we would like to pass them on for your information.

First, we have had numerous requests for information on the effectiveness of insecticides mixed in fertilizer on sweet potatoes for control of sweet potato weevils. It is not effective on the weevil. The weevil itself is not a soil insect. They lay eggs on the soil in the vicinity of the sweet potato roots and the larvae hatch and migrate through the soil cracks made by the sweet potato roots as they grow. The only effective control is by applying the insecticide to cover all of the soil surface around the plants. Complete instructions for both plant bed and field treatment are found in Extension Circular 152, Extension Circular 97B or Extension Circular 160.

Here is another one which we have already "cooled off", if not, would you please explain it to your pepper and tomato growers? We have no field research evidence that powdered milk will control viruses. There has been a lot of powdered milk used by pepper growers in south Florida this spring. We are of the strong opinion at this time that they are wasting their money. This use of sprays with powdered milk was influenced by a research report appearing in the Plant Disease Reporter issued by the USDA for February 15, 1959. The research was sound and the results look promising; however, it was a laboratory - greenhouse experiment and has not been tried in the field. The only virus used was tobacco mosaic. We do not know how effective milk is on the other viruses which are more of a problem than TMV on peppers and tomatoes in Florida. Do not advise the use of milk on these crops. If and when it is proven to be effective and economical we will advise you.

Another approach to control of these viruses on peppers is being worked on in Florida. The plant breeders at the Agricultural Experiment Station now have pepper breeding lines which are resistant to potato Y virus, tobacco mosaic virus and etch virus. It shouldn't be too long before we will have varieties available which are resistant to these viruses.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Several new publications which are available now or in press, are noted below.

1. Etiology and Control of Celery Disease in the Everglades, Bulletin 598, July, 1958.
2. Chemical Weed Control Guide for Florida Vegetable Crops, Extension Circular 196. (In press)
3. Commercial Vegetable Insect and Disease Control Guide, Revised March 1, 1959, Extension Circular 195. (In press)
4. Vegetable Variety Guide, Revised March, 1959, Extension Circular 153. (In press)
5. Hydroponic Culture of Vegetable Crops, Extension Circular 192. (In press)
6. Hydroponics, State of Florida Department of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 180, August, 1958.

Sincerely yours,

Mason E. Marvel

Mason E. Marvel
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