

**VEGETARIAN**

No. 44

University of Florida  
Gainesville  
April 29, 1959

Gentlemen:

It is Field Day time again. The first three were listed in our last Vegetarian. The other four are being announced for the first time.

FIELD DAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Experiment Station - Friday, May 15, 1959  
at 9:00 A.M.

Gulf Coast Experiment Station, Bradenton, Florida  
Wednesday, May 13, 1959, at 10:00 A.M.

South Florida Field Laboratory, Immokalee, Florida  
Wednesday, May 20, 1959, at 10:00 A.M.

Vegetable Crops Department, Main Station, Gainesville, Florida  
Thursday, May 28, 1959, at 9:00 A.M.  
(Lunch will be served at Hort. Unit as usual)

Watermelon and Grape Investigation Laboratory, Leesburg, Florida  
Wednesday, June 3, 1959, at 1:30 P.M.

The 1958-59 vegetable growing season is rapidly drawing to a close. As expected the industry encountered problems in over-production, weather, diseases, insects and many others during this season.

We selected four items for discussion in this letter. These are the items that seem to crop up often in letters and questions to us.

ACREAGE COMPARISONS -

The table given below merits some study. Mr. Rosenberger has worked up some interesting comparisons between "suggested acreage" as given in the Florida Outlook Information and "indicated plantings" as reported by the USDA Crop Reporting Service. We won't try to interpret these figures for you. BUT, you may be interested in making comparisons between indicated plantings and market patterns.

FLORIDA SUGGESTED <sup>1/</sup>ACREAGE COMPARED TO INDICATED <sup>2/</sup>PLANTINGS  
FOR WINTER AND SPRING VEGETABLES

Crop	WINTER			SPRING		
	1 Suggested Plantings in Acres	2 Indicated Plantings in Acres	3 % of Suggested Acreage	1 Suggested Plantings in Acres	2 Indicated Plantings in Acres	3 % of Suggested Acreage
Lima Beans	700	500	71	2,000	1,400	70
Bush & Pole Beans	23,100	16,800	73	20,000	12,000	60
Cabbage	16,600	18,000	108			
Cantaloupes				3,000	1,800	60
Cauliflower	1,000	550	55			
Celery	6,100	8,000	131	3,900	5,000	128
Sweet Corn	10,800	7,500	69	26,500	31,000	117
Cucumbers	3,000	800	27	10,000	8,500	85
Eggplant	800	800	100	920	1,100	120
Endive & Escarole	5,800	6,700	116			
All Lettuce	4,600	3,200	70			
Pepper	5,700	6,000	105	8,500	7,600	89
New Potatoes	16,000	12,500	78	26,000	25,300	97
Squash	4,100			4,400		
Strawberries	4,000	1,600	40			
Tomatoes	22,200	16,000	72	24,200	14,800	61
Watermelons				92,500	75,000	81

<sup>1/</sup> Florida Outlook Information, Vegetables 1958-59, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Florida

<sup>2/</sup> Crop Reporting Board, U.S.D.A.

WAXING CUCUMBERS -

Have you ever seen a cucumber injured by over-waxing? Excessive wax on a cucumber is disagreeable to the housewife, causes injury to the surface of the cuke and is an unnecessary waste of material. Light waxing would be more profitable all the way around. Dr. B. D. Thompson of our Department says that maximum benefits can be obtained when wax emulsions are diluted with water to contain about 7% solids.

Florida grows a good cuke. Let's not ruin it by over-waxing.

SEEDBED AND FIELD FUMIGATION -

In a recent newsletter, we discussed the use of SMDC (vapam and VPM soil fumigant) for field fumigation. Our reports show that many growers were well satisfied with SMDC. A few failures have been reported. We feel that some of these failures can be attributed to method of application.

Mylone is another material which is now being suggested for use on seedbed and in-the-row treatment in the field.

Dr. J. F. Darby of the Central Florida Station suggests using 300 pounds (85% WP) per acre for celery seedbeds. He emphasizes that this material should be applied to a well-prepared seedbed in about one-third acre-inch of water. It should be worked into the soil to a depth of about 3 inches.

Mr. D. S. Burgis obtained good results with mylone on seedbed when the 300 pound dosage was split into two applications. One-half was applied and rotatilled to a six-inch depth. The other half of the material was rotatilled to a 1 to 2 inch depth, rolled and soaked with overhead irrigation. Mr. Burgis states that maintaining soil moisture at a high level for seven days before treating is necessary for best results with either mylone or SMDC.

In-the-row treatment with mylone may be tried on a small scale on approved crops using one-fourth pound of actual mylone per 100 lineal feet of row.

CAUTION: The waiting period between application of mylone and seeding is generally 14 days. Under conditions of heavy rainfall, a longer waiting period or aeration of the row may be necessary.

PEPPER VIRUS -

People attending the Vegetable Field Day at the Plantation Laboratory recently were given some good information by Dr. Ozaki and Associates on varieties, fertilization, fumigation, drainage and irrigation of vegetables. East Coast pepper growers were especially interested in comments made by Dr. Simons on pepper virus diseases. He discussed potato Y virus on peppers and how it has become established in that area.

The virus, he pointed out, is carried over by the nightshade plant from which it is transmitted by aphid to peppers. Since virus diseases cannot be controlled by chemicals other measures must be taken. One of these is to "kill-out" all nightshade growing during the summer months in the area around proposed pepper plantings. Although this may not sound practical, it is one of the few alternatives left to the pepper grower in that area.

Sincerely yours,

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JM:bb

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