

VEGETARIAN

July 8, 1963

NO: 60

TO: COUNTY AGENTS

EXTENSION VEGETABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The State Vegetable Extension Program highlighted the discussion at the recent Gainesville meeting of the Extension Vegetable Advisory Committee. In other discussions, agents expressed a need for frequent informational newsletters from the specialists and for state-wide area vegetable training sessions. Plans are underway for both these items. Long and short-range planning, training-program planning and vegetable program evaluation were established as being the role of the Extension Vegetable Advisory Committee.

NEW STRAWBERRY VARIETIES

Three new strawberry varieties are looking good in trials in Florida. Dr. Locascio has reported on them in the Sunshine State Report. They are Torrey and Fresno, developed in California and Dabreak, developed in Louisiana. At this time, there are no commercial quantities of plants available. A limited supply should be available by January, 1964 from the nurseries in the area where the varieties were developed.

VERTICILLIUM WILT OF STRAWBERRIES

This disease has not been recognized as being serious on strawberries in Florida until recently. This has been observed primarily in the south Dade County area. Dr. Strobel at the Subtropical Experiment Station has definitely established that the same verticillium that is attacking tomatoes, okra and eggplant in Dade County is causing serious damage on Florida 90 strawberries. He has several strawberry varieties at the station which show some resistance to the disease; however, none are superior to Florida 90 in horticultural characters.

WARNING - Strawberry plants should not be removed from south Florida to other areas of the state.

NEMATODE CONTROL

The broad band applicators used by Dr. Rhodes at the Central Florida

Experiment Station for application of nematocides both in sand and peat soils appear to be much more effective than the old methods of application. For more detailed information see Volume 75, page 125-129 of the Florida State Horticultural Society Proceedings.

ONION PRODUCTION

Research workers in Florida are always gathering information which makes commercial onion production more nearly possible. Tests at Bradenton and Belle Glade, Ft. Pierce and Gainesville have brought out these findings.

The varieties Texas Grano 501, Yellow Granex and Bermex 5 are the best yellows and Early Crystal 281, White Grano and Eclipse (L303) are the best white varieties. Tropicana Red, a hybrid F₁, is an outstanding red variety for yield, disease resistance and keeping qualities.

Bulbing onions, spaced 2 inches apart, produced more number 1 bulbs of uniform size than if spaced 4 inches apart on sandy soils.

Onions grown on sandy soils are usually brighter, have better skin condition and cure and keep better than those grown on organic soils.

Trials at Ft. Pierce and Belle Glade indicate that with the varieties listed above that yields increased from the first seeding date (Sept. 16 to Oct. 15). Seeding then progressively decreased in yield as seeding dates were delayed through October into December.

COMPATIBILITY OF CHEMICALS IN THE SPRAY TANK AND PLANT INJURY

Several instances of peculiar plant injury are observed every year and are not always diagnosed correctly because of the many combinations of chemicals, crops and environment which are involved. Workers in Florida and elsewhere have worked on this problem for a number of years, however, only recently have we had so many different chemicals which could be sprayed on. Now commercial growers may be applying two or more fungicides, two or more insecticides, each with its own combination of spreaders, stickers, emulsifiers, and diluents.

In addition to these he puts fertilizers which may contain up to ten or more chemicals. There is no way of knowing what chemical reactions are taking place in the tank.

Studies begun in 1961 at the Watermelon and Grape Lab by Dr. Schenck and Dr. Adlerz using 72 combinations of insecticides, fungicides and foliar fertilizers on watermelons has shown: Disease control was best with zineb-maneb or maneb alone. Mixtures containing Thiodan or Nugreen significantly decreased disease control. Budworm control was best with guthion and mixtures containing either zineb or maneb without fertilizers. Insect control was reduced by mixtures containing either zineb or maneb without fertilizers. This research is being continued as well as work of the same nature which was begun at the Gulf Coast Station on tomatoes.

These results vividly show how unpredictable the results may be where chemicals are combined in the spray tank.

A PLUG

Those of you who are not now members of the Florida State Horticultural Society are missing the very best source of horticultural research information available to you. If you cannot attend the society meetings, you should belong to the Society to receive a copy of the Proceedings. In 1962, thirty-two reports were presented in the Vegetable Section covering many subjects.


PUBLICATIONS

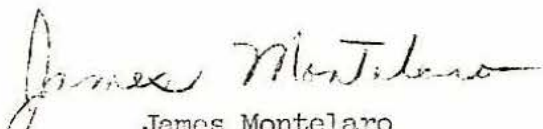
Four new publications are now available. Please remove all old copies of these and discard them and replace with the following:


- Ext. Circ. 193C - Commercial Vegetable Insect and Disease Control Guide.
- Ext. Circ. 196A - Vegetable Weed Control Guide.
- Ext. Circ. 102B - Pepper Production Guide
- Exp. Circ. S-139A - Two New Cantaloupe Varieties for Florida Growers.

This is a reprint with the change of name of the one variety to Florida # 1.

Florida Agricultural Statistics Vegetable Summary 1962 issue is now available from Florida Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Orlando, Florida.


Mason E. Marvel
Assoc. Vegetable Crops Specialist


James Montelaro
Assoc. Vegetable Crops Specialist


F. S. Jamison
Vegetable Crops Specialist
and Head

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