

VEGETARIAN

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TO: COUNTY AGENTS, ASSOCIATES AND ASSISTANTS

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1. Seed Catalogs

At one of the Agents' Training Schools last fall, a few agents requested that we supply you with a list of names and addresses of seed companies from which they could obtain descriptive and price catalogs. These catalogs are handy references and should be made a regular part of the library of all agents working in vegetable production.

The partial list of companies included below can supply you with information on description of varieties, source of seed of regular crops and hard to find specialty crops, supplies, chemicals, etc. We have listed eighteen companies and where possible, have indicated the crops or items in which they specialize. Write these companies for their descriptive catalogs preferably or their price catalogs if the former is not available.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES *

Abbott and Cobb
4744-46 Frankford Avenue
Frankford, Philadelphia 24, Pa.

Asgrow Seed Company
New Haven 2, Connecticut

W. Atlee Burpee Company
Box 6929
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

D. V. Burrell Seed Growers Company
Rocky Ford, Colorado
(Cantaloupes and Watermelons)

Corneli Seed Company
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Willhite Melon Seed Farms
Poolville, Texas
(Watermelons)

Ferry-Morse Seed Company
Mountain View, California

Joseph Harris Company, Inc.
Moreton Farm
Rochester 11, New York

Kilgore Seed Company
Plant City, Florida
(Florida Varieties)

Northrup, King and Company
Minneapolis, Minnesota

H. G. Hastings and Company
Atlanta, Georgia
(Southern Varieties)

Reuter's Seed Company
320 North Carrollton Avenue
New Orleans 19, Louisiana
(Southern Varieties)

Robson Quality Seeds, Inc.
Hall, New York

Seed Research Specialists, Inc.
P. O. Box 3091
Modesto, California
(Vine Crops)

Rogers Brothers Company
Box 2188
Idaho Falls, Idaho
(Sweet Corn, Beans and Green Peas)

SPECIALTY ITEMS

Gleckers Seedmen
Metamora, Ohio
(Tomatoes and Others)

STRAWBERRY PLANTS

W. F. Allen Company
Salisbury, Maryland

2. Tomato and Potato Late Blight Forecasting

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and a number of state Experiment stations have investigated the possibility of developing a forecasting service for potato and tomato late blight. Conditions conducive to late blight development have been worked out and were tried on an area basis in one location in Florida last year.

Even though area-wide forecasting services are not available in the potato and tomato growing areas of Florida, growers should be made aware of the environmental conditions leading to late blight development. This type of information could be used by the grower to adjust his spray schedule with a better degree of judgement than otherwise.

Conditions favorable to late blight developments are:(1) a total

*This list is not intended to be exclusive and no discrimination or endorsement is implied.

rainfall of 1.00 inches or greater over ten consecutive days plus, (2) seven consecutive days of temperature when the maximum ranges between 50° and 77°F. High relative humidity and heavy dews contribute to the moisture requirement. A temperature maximum of 85°F. on any day breaks the "seven consecutive day" requirements which means late blight is not apt to develop immediately. A break, therefore, in either temperature or moisture requirements breaks the cycle and calculations should be started again.

3. Asphaltic Mulches

Several stations in Florida have tested asphalt-like petroleum mulches on a number of vegetables for the past two years. Preliminary results appear quite promising. Some of the benefits that have been observed by the use of asphaltic mulch are: (1) longer retention for more effective action of soil fumigants, (2) raising soil temperatures when cold soils are a limiting factor, (3) reduction of wind and rain, erosion and, (4) possibly increasing effectiveness of herbicides.

Asphaltic mulch requires special equipment for application. Field tests are being conducted in several counties in the state. The material has label clearance for use commercially on beans and cucurbits. Asphaltic mulch is still in the developmental stage but should be watched as it offers some good possibilities in Florida.

4. Blotchy Ripening of Tomatoes

Are blotchy ripening, graywall and white tissue in tomatoes the same? Yes, says Dr. Phil Minges, Extension Vegetable Specialist from Cornell University. He has just completed a survey of Mexican and Florida tomato growing areas and is also familiar with California and New York state deals. He reports that the problem is found in all of these areas.

He has some evidence which indicates that all of the conditions mentioned above are just different manifestations of the same disorder which is probably physiological in nature. He has been able to reproduce this complex of disorders under greenhouse conditions in nutrient culture studies.

If Dr. Minges' contention is correct, a long step forward in the ultimate solution of the problem has been taken. His ideas on blotchy ripening have yet to be proven. Nevertheless, they will stimulate some thinking and possibly some additional research.

5. New Variety Releases

The Florida Agricultural Experiment Station is releasing two southern pea varieties in the near future. Look for the release

circular due out within a month or so. Floriceam is a crowder type, cream southern pea with resistance to wilt. It is a good yielder and can be used for fresh market, freezing and canning.

Snapea is a new type of southern pea. It was developed primarily for use in the snap stage. This variety should be in demand by processors who process snapped and shelled peas together.

Seed of these varieties will be increased and if everything goes well, they should be available for commercial plantings in the fall of 1964.

6. Celery Pinkrot and Lettuce Drop

Circular 193C lists a recommendation for control of lettuce drops with weekly sprayings of 2 pounds of ferbam plus 2 pounds of hydrated lime. Recent work indicates that this is also the best control available for celery pinkrot. Both of these diseases are caused by the fungus, Sclerotinia sclerotiorum. Sclerotinose disease is another name for the disease which may attack crucifers and other vegetable crops as well.

7. Brief Notes from Here and There

a. Watermelon Diseases

Watermelon mosaic and bacterial spot have shown again in south Florida. Be on the lookout for these diseases. Suggestion for checking bacterial spot is the use of basic copper. No control is available for watermelon mosaic.

b. Spacing in Sweet Corn

Considerable research in progress now and in the past on organic soils shows that spacing sweet corn too closely results in reduction in ear size and ultimately higher grade out. Rows 28 to 32 inches apart and spacing of 8 inches between plants is recommended for the best growing conditions.

c. Students Needed in Agriculture

Although our enrollment in the College of Agriculture is on the increase, more students are needed. Students showing a preference for Agriculture when making application for entrance to the University of Florida stand an excellent chance of being admitted. The College of Agriculture has a quota for more students than it presently has registered.

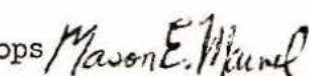
Sincerely,



James Montelaro
Associate Vegetable Crops
Specialist



F. S. Jamison, Head
Vegetable Crops Department



Mason E. Marvel
Associate Vegetable Crops
Specialist