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I. NOTES OF INTEREST

A. New Look for Vegetarian

We hope that you noticed the new front page of the Vegetarian. The new look is largely the result of Dr. Stall working closely with IFAS Editorial. With our new appearance it is probably worthwhile to restate the purpose of the Vegetarian. The material contained in the publication is primarily directed to Florida county extension personnel to keep them updated on the latest developments and publications available, educate them on recommended and/or improved techniques and practices, and to supply resource material that may be used in their county programs.

County extension agents are welcome to adopt the material in the Vegetarian for their local conditions and needs and make it available to their clientele. We ask that you give credit to the authors whenever possible.

We maintain a mailing list for the Vegetarian in the Department. This list is updated annually to keep it current. To maintain a manageable list, we do not mail the Vegetarian to individual home gardeners.

(Sherman & Stall)

B. New Publications

(1) Hand Harvest Tomato Variety Trial Results for Spring 1982, Research Report BRA 1982-15, by T. K. Howe, J. W. Scott and W. E. Waters is available from the Bradenton AREC, 5007 60th Street, East, Bradenton, FL 33508.

(2) Production and Market Forecasting for Florida Tomatoes, Staff Paper 216, by J. J. VanSickle is available from the Food & Resource Economics Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

(Maynard)
II. PESTICIDE UPDATE

The Environmental Protection Agency has granted specific exemptions under the provisions of Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, as amended, to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the following materials:

A. Permethrin on Lettuce

Permethrin (Ambush, Pounce) may be applied to lettuce for the control of vegetable leafminer. Permethrin may be applied at a maximum rate of 0.2 lb ai per acre per application. A maximum of 10 applications is authorized. The specific exemption expires June 30, 1983.

B. Paraquat to Control Weeds in Strawberries

Paraquat may be applied at a maximum of 3 applications as a direct shielded spray to row middles only for weed control. A rate of 0.5 to 1 lb ai per acre may be used. The specific exemption expires May 31, 1983.

C. Oxamyl for Control of Nematodes in Green Beans

Oxamyl (Vydate L) may be applied as a foliar treatment at 0.5 to 1 lb ai. A maximum of 2 applications may be applied beginning two weeks following germination and repeated 14 to 21 days later.

Before using any pesticide, read the labels carefully and follow all instructions and restriction.

(Stall)

III. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

A. Fifth Annual Allied Industry Workshop

The Fifth Annual Workshop for agri-chemical salesmen, field men, and technical representatives concerned with vegetable production will be held on 9 December 1982 in Kendrick Auditorium, Manatee County Fairgrounds, Palmetto, Florida.

Past workshop topics included the influence of pH on crop nutrition, leafminer biology and control, soluble salt damage and control, and pest-free vegetable and seedling production methods. The Industry Advisory Committee selected the theme "Diagnosing Field Problems in Vegetable Crops" for this year's workshop. The program has been planned and speakers for nearly all of the
topics have been confirmed. Registration will begin at 9:00AM and the program will start promptly at 9:30AM as follows:

9:30  An Overview of Field Problem Diagnosis
10:00 A Systematic Approach to Field Diagnosis
10:30 Symptoms of Air Pollution Injury
11:00 Symptoms of Nutritional Disorders and Salt Damage
11:30 Diagnosing Environmental and Man-Caused Problems
12:00 No Host Box Lunch
1:00  Symptoms of Herbicide Injury
1:30 Diagnosing Nematode Related Problems
2:00  Diagnosing Pathogenic Diseases in the Field
2:30 Laboratory Confirmation of Field Diagnosis
3:00  Evaluation of Workshop, Future Plans
3:15 Adjourn

Each speaker has been asked to allow time for questions on the topic and if this workshop is typical of past sessions there will be plenty of interaction.

A final copy of the program will be included in the next issue of the Vegetarian. Attendance will be limited to 200. This meeting is for this specific clientele, but if there is adequate interest a similar workshop for vegetable growers will be provided in the future.

(Marlowe)

IV. HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING

A. Know Your Minor Vegetables – Moth Bean

One of the least grown vegetables in Florida gardens is the moth bean (Vigna aconitifolius), also known by other common names such as mat bean, matki bean, math bean, mout bean, or dew gram. The name "moth" comes from the Hindi word pronounced "mat" or "mote", according to the National Academy of Sciences, in Tropical Legumes.

Actually, the physical appearance of the plant resembles a small mat. The ground-hugging plant is only about a foot high. The densely matted branches growing horizontally have deeply notched leaflets on long leaf branches, somewhat similar to the leaves of certain varieties of sweet potatoes. The hairy branches also produce bright yellow flowers which develop into very short (2 to 3 inches long) smooth pods. Each yellowish-brown pod contains from 4 to 9 seeds about the size of a large grain of rice. Its root system is covered by spherical nodules.
Moth beans are most popular as a crop in India, but have been tried for cattle forage in Texas and California, according to the NAS. It is a hot weather, drought resistant legume.

The climatic requirements have been compared to that for southern peas, although it is a short-day plant. It could be grown in the spring and fall in most of Florida, and in the winter in south Florida. Since it is a short-day plant, the fall season is probably too brief for substantial fall production from south-central Florida northward. There have not been enough trials conducted with this vegetable in Florida to determine its adaptability.

As a suggestion, cultural practices similar to those used for growing southern peas should be followed for moth beans. Planted from seeds spaced 3 inches apart (thinned to 6 in. to allow for proper plant spread) the crop should mature in 2 to 3 months.

Use

In India, green pods are eaten as a vegetable, and the tiny seeds are eaten whole or split. A favorite way is to fry the seeds in a little oil. Seeds contain 22-24 percent protein, but nutritional experts say part of this protein is unavailable due to the presence of a trypsin inhibitor.

(Stephens)

B. Florida Community Gardening Program of 1982 - Extension Agents' Role.

The 1982 Florida legislature expanded the 6-county pilot project on community gardening to include all Florida counties. The legislative act, House Bill No. 628, is entitled the "Florida Community Gardening Program of 1982". By now each county extension director should have received a copy of the act along with a news release from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

The act places the responsibility for implementation of the program with the FDACS and Florida Cooperative Extension Service (FCES). As an agent, you may be wondering what you might do regarding this program. The following are guidelines concerning your role.

1. Help to publicize and promote the program

If after evaluating your county situation you feel there is a need and place for community gardens in your county, here is what you should do:
(a) Publicize the idea and solicit managers/sponsors.

(b) Once managers start a project, help them publicize for participants.

2. Educational function

(a) Advise managers/sponsors on how to set-up and operate a community garden. The FDACS has guidelines already prepared.

(b) Provide gardeners information on how to grow a successful garden. You may find it advantageous to have your own plot as a demonstration.

3. Assist FDACS with applications, permits, and other forms

The FDACS will prepare, process and file all of the necessary forms, such as application blanks, land contracts, project agreements, rules and garden permits. Your role is to be familiar with and keep forms on hand, then inform managers and participants on how to process the forms.

4. Assist FDACS in identifying land for contracting

FDACS may need your help in determining the actual parcels of land that might be available in your county for community gardening projects. All contracts for use of such land will be drawn up and processed by FDACS. You may be asked to identify any ongoing community gardens that you know of in your county.

5. Help FDACS identify potential managers/sponsors

No garden project can be started or permitted unless it has a manager/sponsor. As an Extension agent, you should not be in charge of any project. You should get any interested persons in touch with the FDACS.

The FDACS representative and program coordinator is Lowell Parrish, Marketing Specialist, Tallahassee (904-488-3034) and the FCES representative is Jim Stephens, Extension Vegetable Specialist, Gainesville (904-392-2134). Unfortunately, no additional money has been made available for this specific program. If you have questions about the program, please call Lowell or me.

(Stephens)

B. Master Gardener Planning

Agents from 15 counties met at Lake Yale in late August to discuss future Master Gardener Program plans. Counties that had
agents attending the meeting were: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Broward, Clay, Collier, Dade, Duval, Escambia, Lee, Marion, Palm Beach, Putnam, Seminole and St. Johns.

During the 2 1/2 day program, subject matter specialists showed portions of slide sets they have developed for use by agents when training master gardeners. Discussions were held on how to involve master gardeners in the 4-H horticulture program. Sidney Feinberg, Hillsborough County; Eleanor Foreste, Osceola County; and Russ Swanson, Lake County; participated in a panel discussion which involved answering questions, and making suggestions on how to improve of their master gardener programs.

Any county that wishes to begin a new master gardener training session should contact me to help schedule slide sets and to order supplies needed.

(McDonal)

C. 4-H'ers Prepare for National Contest

4-H'ers from St. Johns and Marion Counties have been preparing for their trip to Niagara Falls, New York. They will be competing with 4-H'ers from other areas of the United States at the National Junior Horticulture Association Convention. Scheduled to begin on October 29 and conclude on November 2.

Marion County 4-H'ers will compete in the Horticulture Identification Contest, while 4-H'ers from St. Johns County will compete in the Demonstrations Category.

(McDonal)
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