



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

Cooperative Extension Service

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

VEGETARIAN

A Vegetable Crops Extension Publication

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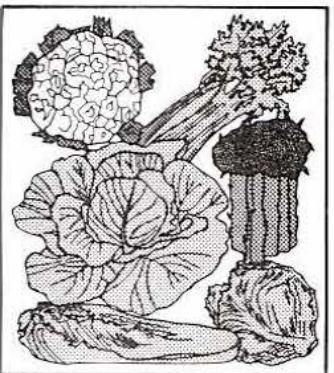
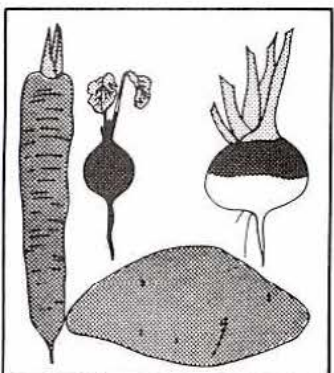
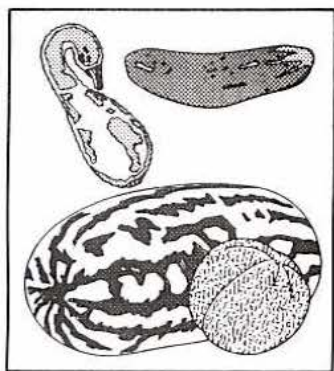
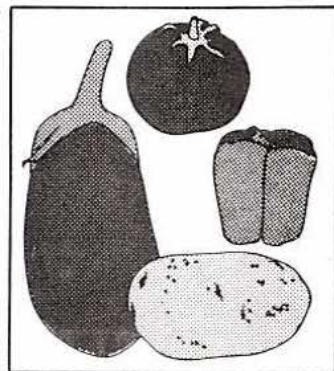
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I. NOTES OF INTEREST

A. Vegetable Crops Calendar.

August 29-30, 1995. Florida Strawberry Jam 13 Agritech Educational Seminar and Trade Show, Plant City, FL. Contact T. Crocker, Horticultural Sciences Dept., Gainesville, FL.

September 6, 1995. Tomato Institute, Ritz Carlton, Naples, FL. Contact C. Vavrina, Southwest Florida REC, Immokalee.

II. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

A. New Vegetable Fertilization Publications.

Several new or revised IFAS vegetable fertilization publications have just been released or will be out in the next month. I wanted to call your attention to these because you will need to discard all predecessor documents you currently have on the shelf.

SP-177 replaces Circular 806. The title, "Commercial Vegetable Crop Nutrient Requirements" is the same but the contents have been revised and updated. Fertilizer requirements, particularly nitrogen have been revised to reflect recent research and field demonstration results. SP-177 is a For-Sale document.

Circular 1152 is a free document in brochure format entitled "IFAS Standardized Fertilization Recommendations for Vegetable Crops". It replaces Special Series SS-SOS-907 by the same title. This document contains the Mehlich-1 soil test information, calibration chart, fertilizer management footnotes, and all

soil-test based fertilizer recommendations for commercial vegetables.

Circ. 1141, "Fertilization of Strawberries in Florida" is the revised form of the brochure by the same title, first produced last fall. Circ. 1141 was reprinted after being slightly revised. Circ. 1141 is free.

SP-170 "Vegetable Production Guide for Florida" is a brand new FOR-SALE document. Those of us with gray hairs remember back when the idea for this one was hatched! Well, believe it or not, we are going to see it all grown up. This document is substantial and contains most of what you want to know about vegetable production in short, concise chapters. Although SP-170 is a for-sale document, all vegetable extension faculty will receive a desk copy. Please take the time to look it over and tell us what you think. We will be revising this on a (regular?) basis. Also, please help the Bulletin Office sell this publication.

(Hochmuth, Vegetarian 95-07)

B. Plastic Mulch Effects on Sweet Onions.

Sweet onions are becoming more of an "item" in south FL, so research efforts have increased at the Everglades and Southwest FL Research and Education Centers. One study this past year involved plastic mulch vs. no mulch. As an alternative crop for south FL, the cost cutting economics of production would favor no plastic mulch. However, as the data was not there to support mulch usage or otherwise, we undertook to study this cultural technique.

Methyl bromide fumigated, white plastic mulched beds were prepared in early September. In early December, 15-foot plots were assigned by physically removing sections of plastic to produce a randomized complete block design. Ninety onion transplants ('Yellow Granex Improved') per bed were planted in a 4" X 14" twin row pattern. Seepage irrigation was used. All plots were fertilized with 30 lbs. N in three separate applications beginning thirty days after setting. Residual fertilizer from the bedding operation carried early transplant development. Plots were harvested in mid April.

The data show that plastic mulch did not influence marketable number or the number of splits and rots of 'Yellow Granex Improved' (Table 1). Mulch did however, have a significant effect on marketable weight and average bulb weight. Clearly, individual bulb weight was enhanced by plastic mulch resulting in greater overall weight per plot.

Table 1. Effect of white plastic mulch on sweet onion production.

Culture	Marketable Number	Marketable Weight (lbs.)	Average Bulb Weight (oz.)	Split (#)	Rots (#)
Bare Ground	81	51.55 b	10.18 b	4.3	2.3
Plastic Mulch	79	62.78 a	12.65 a	4.2	2.8

As splitting (a major problem in some seasons) and rotting occurrence was not altered, the major benefit of mulch appears to lie in bulb expansion. Whether this expansion is due to water/fertilizer conservation or temperature modification, we can only speculate at this time. White mulched soil temperatures may actually run cooler in the spring than bare ground soil temperatures, especially during the day. This factor may be advantageous for bulb physiology in Florida.

(Vavrina & Nagata, Vegetarian 95-07)

III. VEGETABLE GARDENING

A. Florida's Biggest Vegetables - 1995 Update.

From all of the inquiries I've been getting, it must be time to update the list of record-size vegetables grown around the state.

During the past year (since July 1994) there have been 8 new records set. These were for lima bean, cassava, cucuzzi gourd, okra stalk, hubbard squash, scallop squash, zucchini squash, and summer squash (see list).

Florida Record-size Vegetables
(through 07-13-95)
J. M. Stephens - Vegetable Crops Specialist
University of Florida 392-2134 x 209

<u>Vegetable</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Grower</u>	<u>Date</u>
Bean, Lima	9 ½ inches	St. Lucie	Walter	04/12/95
Beet	5 lb. 0 oz.	Duval	Brinson	06/06/92
Boniata	12 lb. 10 oz.	Seminole	Phillips	03/05/91
Broccoli	5 lb. 4 oz.	Suwannee	Graham	06/06/93
Cabbage	19 lb. 7 oz.	Suwannee	Graham	06/29/92
Cantaloupe	29 lb. 8 oz.	Levy	Bumgardner	07/09/91
Carrot	3 lb. 1 oz.	Pinellas	Nehls	04/16/93
Cassava	9 lb.	Seminole	Ramkisson	11/18/94
Cauliflower	15 lb. 6 oz.	Alachua	Severino	02/19/92
Chicory	1 lb. 3 oz.	Alachua	Lazin	02/13/86
Collard	13 ft. 3 in.	Leon	Kelso	08/26/93
Corn, sweet	1 lb. 15 oz.	Suwannee	Graham	06/23/94
Cucumber (wt)	4 lb. 7 oz.	Suwannee	Graham	06/29/92
Cucumber (length)	27 in.	Suwannee	Graham	06/29/92
Eggplant	4 lb. 8 oz.	Palm Beach	LaIuppa	01/17/92
Garlic	1 lb. 8 oz.	St. Johns	Hester	05/20/93
Gourd, cucuzzi	61.5"	Hernando	Pizzino	07/18/94
Honeydew	8 lb. 4 oz.	Escambia	Harrison	07/13/95
Jicama	21 lb. 8 oz.	Palm Beach	Oppe	01/26/93
Kohlrabi	19 lb. 8 oz.	Duval	Faustini	06/05/93
Melon, winter	50 lbs. 0 oz.	Palm Beach	Yee	01/26/93
Mustard	7 1/3 lbs.	Suwannee	Graham	06/28/93
Okra, pod (wt)	8 oz.	Suwannee	Graham	06/28/93
Okra, pod (length)	22 1/4 in.	Suwannee	Graham	06/28/93
Okra, stalk	19ft' 10 1/2"	Flagler	Mikulka	10/27/94
Onion	3 lb. 11 oz.	Manatee	Geraldson	08/07/90
Pepper	1 lb. 1 oz.	Palm Beach	Amestoy	02/02/90
Potato, irish	2 lb. 13 oz.	St. Johns	Kight	05/23/89
Potato, sweet	30.2 lb.	Seminole	White	01/25/93
Pumpkin	242 lb.	Suwannee	Graham	07/03/90

<u>Vegetable</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Grower</u>	<u>Date</u>
Radish, S.	3 lb. 12 oz.	Palm Beach	Vanderlaan	01/31/90
Radish, W.	25 lb.	Hillsborough	Breslow	1977
Radish, Daikon	23 lb. 5 oz.	Alachua	Neilson	03/28/92
Rutabaga	22 lbs.	Lake	Salter	11/19/93
Squash, hub.	131 lb. 12 oz.	Santa Rosa	Bynum	10/26/94
Squash, banana	39 lb.	Lake	Blehar	09/26/91
Squash, butternut	23 lb. 12 oz.	Santa Rosa	Bynum	09/26/92
Squash, scal.	3 lb. 11 oz.	Nassau	Horne	06/10/95
Squash, spaghetti	25 lb. 14 oz.	St. Johns	Jones	06/19/92
Squash, zucc.	11 lb. 11 oz.	Nassau	Horne	06/10/95
Squash, summer	6 lbs 2 oz.	Escambia	Harrison	07/13/95
Taro	8 oz.	Palm Beach	Oppe	01/17/92
Tomato	3 lb.	Marion	Spangler	07/11/90
Turnip	18 lb. 4 oz.	Union	Clyatt	01/20/93
Watermelon	205 lb.	Levy	Bumgardner	07/21/92
Yam (True)	12 lb. 15 oz.	Palm Beach	Oppe	01/26/93

Records held per county

Suwannee	9	Escambia	2
Palm Beach	7	Flagler	1
Alachua	3	Hernando	1
Seminole	3	Hillsborough	1
St. Johns	3	Leon	1
Duval	2	Manatee	1
Lake	2	Pinellas	1
Levy	2	St. Lucie	1
Nassau	2	Union	1
Santa Rosa	2		

Keep in mind that this is not a competitive event. Each grower does receive a certificate in recognition of their accomplishment, but there are no awards, trophies, or prizes provided. Some gardeners do try to break records, even if it is their own record. The leader so far in number of records

held (9) is Mr. McDonald Graham of Suwannee County. Perhaps the most notable record set during the past year was the 11 pound 11 ounce zucchini grown by Mr. Horne of Nassau County, and exhibited at the Duval County Urban Gardening Harvest Fair, June 10, 1995.

Prepared by Extension Vegetable Crops Specialists

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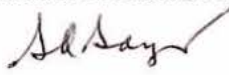
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