



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

**Cooperative Extension Service**

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

# VEGETARIAN

## A Vegetable Crops Extension Publication

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Vegetarian 96-02

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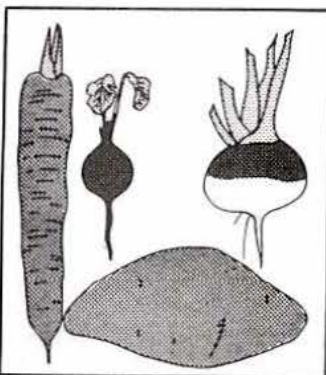
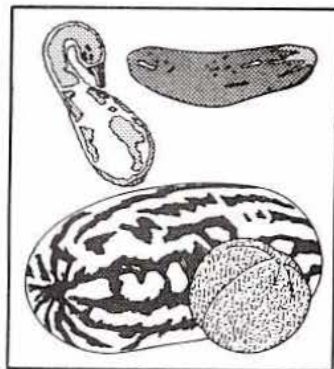
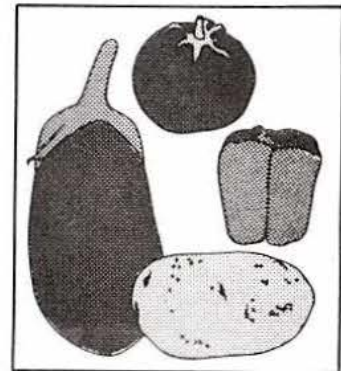
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## I. NOTES OF INTEREST

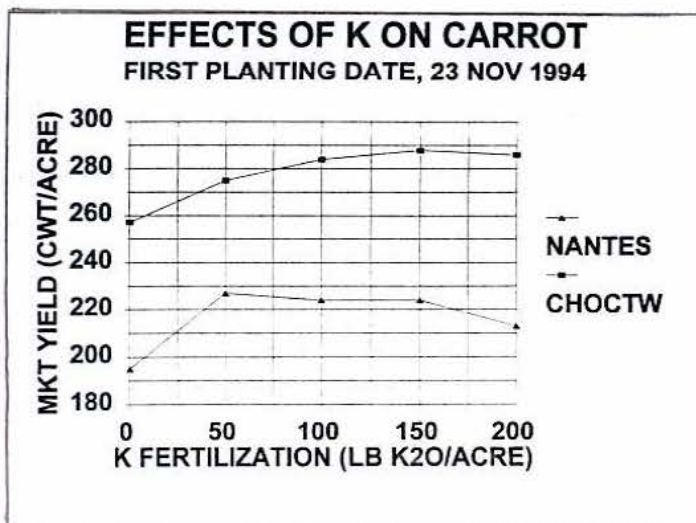
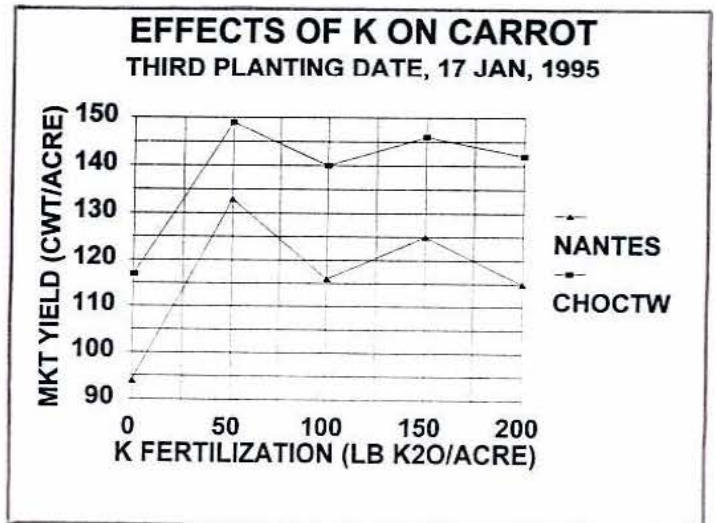
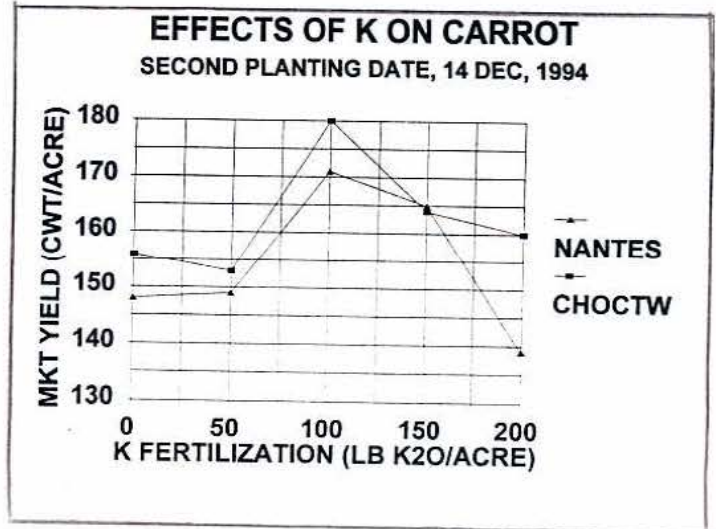
### A. Vegetable Crops Calendar.

March 7-14, 1996. Florida Postharvest Horticulture Institute and Industry Tour. Contact Steve Sargent, Coordinator.

## II. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

### A. Carrot Response to Potassium Fertilization on a Sandy Soil.

In the January Vegetarian, I described some research we conducted on carrot N fertilization on sandy soils. In a second study, using similar methods, we also evaluated responses to potassium (K) fertilization. The prefertilization soil K was 38 ppm (Mehlich-1 extractant), interpreted as medium for which 100 lb K<sub>2</sub>O per acre were recommended. For all three plantings, 100 lb K<sub>2</sub>O per acre appeared to be adequate for carrot production. The K recommendations were adequate. There did not appear to be any differential response to K fertilization between the two carrot cultivars.



(Hochmuth, Vegetarian 96-02)

### III. VEGETABLE GARDENING

#### A. Tips on Starting Transplants (Herbs and Vegetables).

Once again Barbara Daniels, Coordinator of the Urban Gardening project in Duval County has provided us with some good practical and timely gardening information. Here she relates how her group of Urban and Master Gardeners start their transplants for the spring garden. I have made just a few editorial changes here and there, but have found her procedure to be "right-on".

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At the Urban Gardening Demonstration Garden, we have started seedlings for spring planting. Herbs were started early January, but it is not too late to start in February. Cold protection may still be needed outside. If you already have hardy herb and cool season vegetable plants ready this month, they can be set out when your soil preparation chores are done in February. Using transplants for crucifers (broccoli, cabbage, collards and cauliflower) this month will give you a jump on warmer weather. The flavor and production of these vegetables are much better with longer periods of cold weather.

Supplies you need for starting seed include plastic flats with or without cellpack inserts, a good soilless growing mixture, seed markers and water soluble fertilizer. If you plan to start a lot of different plants in one seed flat, fill the flat with premoistened soil mix, firming it down until it is 1/2" from the top of the flat. Sow seeds in furrows three times as deep as the seed diameter. Space small seeds 1/8" apart and medium seeds 1/2" apart, in rows 1 and 1/2" to 2" apart. This allows room to grow their first true leaves before transplanting. Label each row with the name and variety of the plant and the date of sowing.

Keep flats moist and warm (70-75 degrees) for good germination. For heating, we use an old electric blanket or heating pad. If you do this, place plastic over blanket before putting tray down. You don't want to get it wet and cause an electric shock. Then cover tray with plastic to keep in moisture. Keep a good watch on tray for emerging seeds as they then will need light to keep them from getting leggy. Set tray out in sunshine every day until ready to transplant into 2" pots. Plants need to be brought in if nights are below 45-50 degrees.

When transplanting seedlings to 2" pots use pre-moistened potting soil, filling pot to 1/2" of top. Firm soil and use finger to make a planting hole. Use a plastic spoon or pencil to gently lift seedlings from planting flat. Hold plant by leaves rather than by the stem to pull plant up. Keep rootball intact when placing in planting hole. Most plants can be set slightly deeper than they were in the germination flat. Firm soil around newly set plant so roots are in close contact with soil and no air pockets are left. Set transplants in a warm place outside and gently water in. Avoid mid-day direct sun the first day until they perk up.

To prevent disturbing the roots when transferring from the germination tray to the 2" pot, you can use cellpacks in the flat. Fill packs with damp soil 1/2" from the top. Use the eraser end of a pencil to make a depression in the middle of each cell, then drop one seed in each hole. Firm soil over seed. Keep plants watered to moist, not soggy. You can use 1/4 of the recommended amount of liquid fertilizer per gallon to water plants. Start hardening off plants before planting in the garden. Cut back on fertilizer and watering and increase exposure to sunlight, wind and a range of temperature. Transplant in the garden on a warm, windless cloudy day for the transition to their new homes.

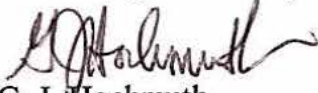
**B. Largest Vegetable Update.**

The following is a list of the largest vegetables in Florida.

**Florida Record-size Vegetables**  
**J. M. Stephens - Vegetable Crops Specialist**  
**University of Florida 392-2134 ext. 209**  
**(through 02\01\96)**

<u>Vegetable</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Grower</u>	<u>Date</u>
Bean, Lima	Pole	9 1/2 inches	St. Lucie	Walter	04/12/95
Beet	Detroit	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	Dutch Flat	19 lb. 7 oz.	Suwannee	Graham	06/29/92
Cantaloupe	Colossal	29 lb. 8 oz.	Levy	Bumgardner	07/09/91
Carrot	Chantenay	3 lb. 1 oz.	Pinellas	Nehls	04/16/93
Cassava	-	11 lb. 4 oz.	Palm Beach	Ozaki	01/12/96
Cauliflower	-	15 lb. 6 oz.	Alachua	Severino	02/19/92
Chicory	Magdeburg	1 lb. 3 oz.	Alachua	Lazin	02/13/86
Collard	Georgia	13 ft. 3 in.	Leon	Kelso	08/26/93
Corn, sweet	Skycraper	1 lb. 15 oz.	Suwannee	Graham	06/23/94
Cucumber (wt)	Burpless	4 lb. 7 oz.	Suwannee	Graham	06/29/92
Cucumber (length)	Burpless	27 in.	Suwannee	Graham	06/29/92
Eggplant	Black Beauty	4 lb. 8 oz.	Palm Beach	Laluppa	01/17/92
Garlic	Elephant	1 lb. 8 oz.	St. Johns	Hester	05/20/93
Gourd	Field's Common	55 lbs.	Suwannee	Graham	08/08/95
Gourd, cucuzzi	-	61.5"	Hernando	Pizzino	07/18/94
Honeydew	Tam-dew	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
Malanga	unknown	18 lb. 3 oz.	Palm Beach	Ozaki	01/12/96
Melon, winter	-	67 lbs.	Palm Beach	Yee	09/13/95
Mustard	Fla. Broadleaf	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	La. Green Velvet	19ft' 10 1/2"	Flagler	Mikulka	10/27/94
Onion	Grano	3 lb. 11 oz.	Manatee	Geraldson	08/07/90
Pepper	Experimental	1 lb. 1 oz.	Palm Beach	Amestoy	02/02/90
Potato, irish	Frito #92	2 lb. 13 oz.	St. Johns	Kight	05/23/89
Potato, sweet	-	30.2 lb.	Seminole	White	01/25/93
Pumpkin	Atlantic Giant	242 lb.	Suwannee	Graham	07/03/90
Radish, S.	Red Summer	3 lb. 12 oz.	Palm Beach	Vanderlaan	01/31/90
Radish, W.	-	25 lb.	Hillsborough	Breslow	1977
Radish, W.	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.	Park's Black	11 lb. 11 oz.	Nassau	Horne	06/10/95
Squash, summer	YSN	6 lb. 2 oz..	Escambia	Harrison	07/13/95
Taro	-	8 oz.	Palm Beach	Oppe	01/17/92
Tomato	Delicious	3 lb.	Marion	Spangler	07/11/90
Turnip	Just Right	18 lb. 4 oz.	Union	Clyatt	01/20/93
Watermelon	Carolina Cross	205 lb.	Levy	Bumgardner	07/21/92
Yam (True)	-	12 lb. 15 oz.	Palm Beach	Oppe	01/26/93

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