



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

Cooperative Extension Service

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

VEGETARIAN

A Vegetable Crops Extension Publication

Horticultural Sciences Department • P.O. 110690 • Gainesville, FL 32611 • Telephone 904/392-2134

Vegetarian 96-08

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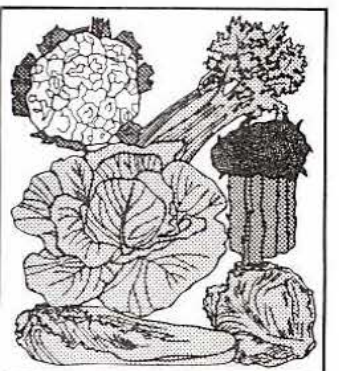
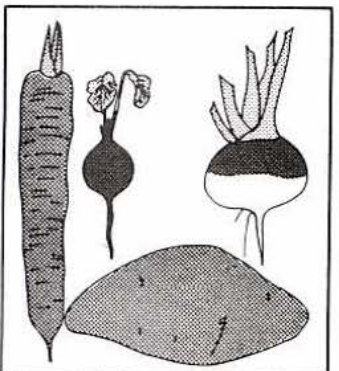
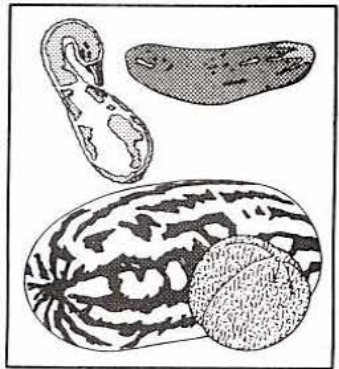
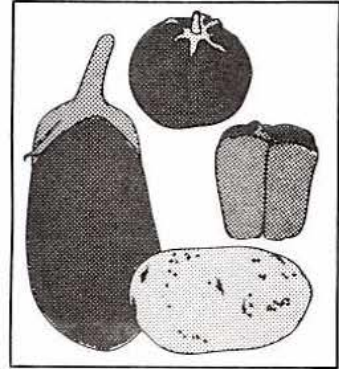
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I. NOTES OF INTEREST

A. Vegetable Crops Calendar.

September 4, 1996. Tomato Institute Program, Ritz Carlton, Naples. Contact C. Vavrina.

October 1-2, 1996. 1996 Florida Agricultural Conference and Trade Show, Vegetable Program, Lakeland Civic Center. Contact George Hochmuth.

II. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

A. Tomato Graywall Related to High N Fertilization.

Tomato graywall can be a major problem in winter growing seasons with more than 50% losses reported at times. It sometimes has been associated with low temperatures, low potassium, "out-of-balance" nitrogen and potassium, cloudy weather, potassium deficiency, bacterial infection, etc. Some fertilizer demonstration studies with tomato had indicated high fertilizer, especially nitrogen might be associated with graywall.

This past winter, a study was conducted by Juan Carranza (Biologist), Steven O'Hair, George Hochmuth, Herb Bryan, and Ed Hanlon to evaluate effects of N and K fertilization of drip-irrigated tomato in Dade County on rockland soil. Nitrogen rates were 0, 75, 150, and 225 lb N per acre and potassium rates were 0, 50, 100, and 150 lb K₂O per acre.

Soil tests showed a medium concentration of K in the soil but there were no yield responses to K fertilization. In addition, fruit graywall was not affected by K fertilization (Table 1). Yield was maximized with 150 lb N per acre, the recommended rate. Graywall was increased with N fertilization, especially as N rate increased above 75 lb per acre.

Some individuals recommend high K relative to N to reduce tomato fruit disorders such as graywall and blotchy ripening. Our data clearly show that it is not the ratio that counts but the rate of nutrient. Furthermore, N is more important than K. High N increases graywall while not increasing yield.

Table 1. Effects of N and K on tomato fruit yield and graywall, Homestead, winter, 1995-96.

N	K ₂ O	Total large	Total Mkt.	Graywall	Cull
lb/acre		25-lb cartons/acre			
0		503	939	7	242
75		1077	1783	31	566
150		1197	1901	38	575
225		1193	1904	34	578
signif.		**	**	*	**
	0	867	1453	25	451
	50	1042	1743	33	525
	100	1024	1666	27	501
	150	1037	1666	24	485
	signif.	NS	NS	NS	NS

(Hochmuth, Vegetarian 96-08)

**1996 FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL
CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW
VEGETABLE PROGRAM**

LAKELAND CIVIC CENTER,
LAKELAND, FL

SESSION 1

Tuesday, October 1

ORGANIC VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

*Moderator: Mr. Ken Shuler, Palm Beach County
Cooperative Extension Service, IFAS, West Palm
Beach, FL*

8:00 am Introduction to Organic Vegetables - Mr.
Gary Brinen, Alachua County Cooperative
Extension Service, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

8:15 am Organic Vegetable Production: Dealing with
in Florida Conditions - Mr. Obi Donohue,
President, King Bee Organics, Sarasota, FL

8:45 am Marketing and Sourcing Organic Vegetables
from Florida - Mr. Chris Bell, President,
Internatural Marketing, Inc., Lake Worth, FL

9:15 am Pest Management in Organic Vegetable
Production Systems - Dr. Tom Kucharek,
Extension Plant Pathologist, Plant Pathology
Department, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

9:45 am Panel Discussion

10:30 am Adjourn - Visit Trade Show

SESSION 2

Tuesday, October 1

CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR

2:00 pm Introduction - Dr. Ed Hanlon, Soil and Water
Science Department, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

2:15 pm Details on the CCA Program in Florida - Mr.
Andy Levigne, Florida Agricultural Chemicals
Association, Winter Haven, FL

2:45 pm Practice Exam Questions and Problems - Dr.
Ed Hanlon, Mr. Andy Levigne

3:45 pm Questions and Answers

4:00 pm Adjourn - Visit Trade Show

SESSION 3

Wednesday, October 2

WATERMELON AND OTHER CUCURBITS

*Moderator: Mr. Bob Hochmuth, Suwannee Valley
Research and Education Center, IFAS, Live Oak,
FL*

8:00 am News in Cucurbit Varieties - Dr. Don
Maynard, Gulf Coast Research and Education
Center, IFAS, Bradenton, FL

8:30 am Update on Cucurbit Diseases - Dr. Tom
Kucharek, Plant Pathology Department,
IFAS, Gainesville, FL

9:00 am Row Middle and Double - Crop Weed
Control - Dr. Jim Gilreath, Gulf Coast
Research and Education Center, IFAS,
Bradenton, FL

9:30 am Fertilization of Drip-Irrigated Melons - Dr.
George Hochmuth, Horticultural Sciences
Department, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

10:00 am Questions and Answers

10:30 am Adjourn - Visit Trade Show

(Hochmuth, Vegetarian 96-08)

III. VEGETABLE GARDENING

**A. Results: 1996 4-H Congress
Horticultural Events.**

The following is a report on four major
horticultural events conducted during State 4H
Congress on The University of Florida campus, the
week of July 29 - August 1, 1996.

a) 4-H Horticulture Curriculum - our
4-H horticulture committee met to review the newly
written and revised 4-H Plant Connections
curriculum materials, which includes horticulture
as its major focus.

The writer is Janice Easton who works for
Glenn Israel, and the project director is Debbie

Glauer of Family and Youth Sciences; they have put together the following six lessons (with supporting activities):

- Lesson 1. What is a plant?
- Lesson 2. Why are plants important?
- Lesson 3. What makes plants grow?
- Lesson 4. How to grow plants.
- Lesson 5. How to select and handle plants.
- Lesson 6. The future in plants.

This new curriculum will be pilot tested with 9-11 year old 4-H Youth in 3 or 4 Florida counties this fall. If you or your 4-H constituents wish to participate in this pilot project, please get in touch with me or Debbie Glauer.

b) 4-H Horticulture Hort Track - a total of 37 4-H youth participated in this two-day track of classes featuring horticultural subjects. In one class the youngsters reclaimed an old 60x60 ft herb garden from the weeds and over-grown mint, then re-established 8 very attractive herb plots named by the kids as following:

- “Herbs-R-Us”
- “Dinks Darlings Herbs”
- “Spanky’s Spices”
- “The Hot Plot”
- “Good Thyme Garden”
- “Herbal Essence”
- “The Ginger Mint”
- “Sour Puss Herb Garden”

c) 4-H Plant Connections Demonstrations - here are the placings in this state finals event:

1. Marion Co. - Ashley Dobbs and Jenni Upton. “The Fabulous Fern”. (team represents Fla. In Dallas, NJHA, October.)
2. Santa Rosa Co. - Katie Mullins. “The Core of Grafting”.
3. Broward Co. - Richard March. “Grafting”.
4. Union Co. - Julia Cannon. “Propagating a Plant”.
5. Hillsborough Co. - Natasha Walden “Creating a Dish Garden.”
6. Seminole Co. - Jason Quisenberry. “Vegetable Gardening.”
7. Citrus Co. - Jeremy Allen. “Growing Watermelons.”

Awards: Provided by FFVA, Clonts Farms, and Zellwin Farms.

d) 4-H Horticulture Judging and Identification Contest - Six county teams competed in this state finals event. Contestants had to identify 140 individual plant specimens, plus judge 8 classes of fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals, set up by Jeff Williamson, Jim Stephens, and Bob Black. The Marion Co. Team wins a trip to NJHA, Dallas, TX, Oct, 1996, sponsored by FFVA, Clonts Farm, and Zellwin Farms.

(Stephens, Vegetarian 96-08)

Prepared by Extension Vegetable Crops Specialists

Dr. D. J. Cantliffe
Chairman

Dr. G. J. Hochmuth
Professor

Dr. D. N. Maynard
Professor

Dr. S. M. Olson
Professor

Dr. S. A. Sargent
Assoc. Professor & Editor

Dr. W. M. Stall
Professor

Mr. J. M. Stephens
Professor

Dr. C. S. Vavrina
Assoc. Professor

Dr. J. M. White
Assoc. Professor

