



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Cooperative Extension Service

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

VEGETARIAN

A Vegetable Crops Extension Publication

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Vegetarian 97-April & May

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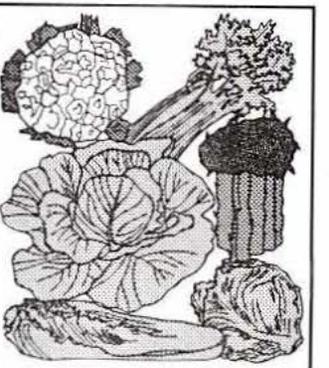
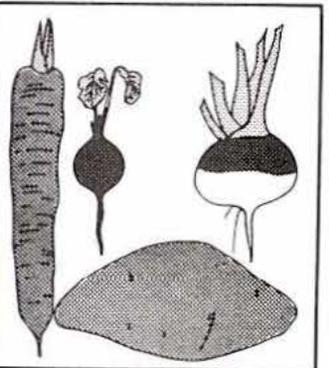
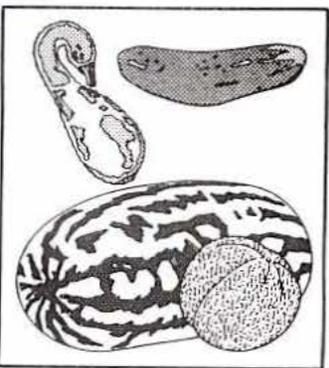
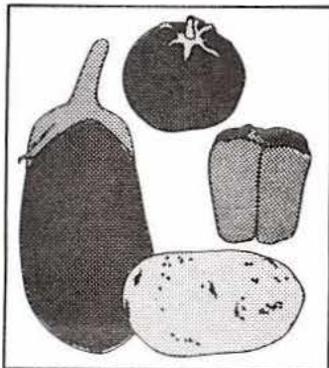
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I. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

A. 1995-96 Vegetable Summary.

The value of vegetables in Florida for the 1995-96 season was \$1.48 billion according to the Vegetable Summary, Florida Agricultural Statistics. Tomatoes were still the leader of the Florida vegetable shares of total production value with 29.7% of the total. Pepper followed second with 12.6%, followed by potatoes with 8.5%, strawberries (7.6%), sweet corn (6.2%), snapbeans (4.9%), watermelon (3.4%), cucumbers (3.3%), cabbage (2.0%), squash (1.8%), radish (1.4%), and all others at 18.6%.

The acreage planted to vegetables was 369,200, down three percent from the 380,850 acres planted during the 1994-95 season.

The planted acreage and value of individual vegetables during 1995-96 were:

Vegetables	Planted Acreage	Total Value (\$1000)
snap beans	28,500	73,178
cabbage	9,400	29,691
carrots	7,100	12,768
sweet corn	42,000	91,284
cucumbers	10,900	48,369
eggplant	2,100	10,926
escarole	2,600	5,590
bell pepper	21,000	185,672
radish	13,700	20,021
squash	10,800	27,297
tomatoes	46,400	440,119
watermelon	40,000	49,980
potatoes	46,800	126,165
strawberries	6,000	112,632

other vegetables	81,900	246,240
Total	369,200	1,484,897

The "other vegetables" category includes cantaloupes, cauliflower, celery, tropical vegetables, greens (collard, turnip and mustard), okra, onions, leeks, parsley, southern peas and Chinese cabbage,

For individual data on specific commodities, a copy of the Florida Agricultural Statistics - Vegetable Summary may be obtained from the Florida Agricultural Statistics Service, 1222 Woodward Street, Orlando, Florida 32803. (407) 648-6020.

(Stall, Vegetarian 97-April & May)

II. PESTICIDE UPDATE

A. Prefar Label Change.

Gowan has changed Prefar (bensulide) to a 6-E formulation and have added to the label.

In addition to the cole crops, cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts and cauliflower, there is a supplemental label for Chinese broccoli, broccoli raab (rapini), cavalo broccoli, collards, Chinese cabbage (bok choy, napa), Chinese mustard (gai choy), all Chinese brassica crops (including both tight and loose headed varieties), kale, kohlrabi, mizuna, mustard greens, rape greens.

The leafy vegetable subgroup also is labeled including: arugula (roquette), cardoon, celery, Chinese celery (transplant only), chervil, cress (garden, upland), dandelion, endive, Florence fennel, parsley, radicchio and lettuce (leaf and head).

(Stall, Vegetarian 97-April & May)

B. Poast Label Change.

Poast (sethoxydim) has had several label changes (additions) that should be noted. Poast is now labeled for all the leafy vegetable group. This includes endive as well as lettuce (head and leaf) and spinach. I have a supplemental label that also includes cilantro. It should be pointed out that mint is already on the label. The cucurbit subgroup is labeled. This also includes all cucurbit crops in that group including chayote.

(Stall, Vegetarian 97- April & May)

C. Matrix on Potatoes.

In the newest Dupont label book you will find a label for Matrix (rimisulfuron) for use on potatoes. At the present time there is **NOT** a label for the use of Matrix in Florida. We have had trials out with Matrix for several years in Florida, primarily in the Hastings area, but also in Collier Co. In our tests the material is safe and effective. When a label is obtained for use in Florida, I hope to get the information to you immediately.

(Stall, Vegetarian 97- April & May)

III. VEGETABLE GARDENING

A. Tomatoes: "Cage and Ring" culture.

This article is a reminder of two popular methods of growing tomatoes in the Florida home garden. Both methods employ the use of wire in the shape of a circle.

Caging - This technique calls for the placement of a wire cage around each individual tomato plants.

By caging his tomatoes, a gardener can grow an indeterminate, staking variety, such as Better Boy, without having to stake and periodically tie the plant. Likewise, suckering could be reduced to a minimum, if so desired. Easy plant support is the main advantage.

Various cages are sold already constructed for this purpose. However, the gardener may wish to construct his own. One common method of construction calls for the use of concrete reinforcing mesh wire. Holes (mesh) must be large enough to insert the hand to pick the fruit. Six-inch squares are suggested.

Cages are cylindrical in shape, 3 ½ to 5 feet tall, and 18 to 24 inches in diameter. Unrolled, about 5½ feet of mesh wire are needed to make one cage. Snip off, the horizontal bottom rung so that the vertical wires can be pushed into the soil to a depth of 6 inches for anchoring purposes.

Plant the tomato plants about 3 feet apart in rows. Leave 4 to 5 feet between row centers.

Place the cage over the plant while the plant is small. The plant grows up through the cage, with some leaves and stems sticking through the wire, helping to support the plant. No tying is necessary.

Pruning may still be performed through the mesh if desired. However, it is suggested that gardeners try caging plants without suckering them.

Ring culture - Unlike the method described under "caging", "ring culture" calls for the tomato plants to be grown on the

outside of the wire cage. Here are the instructions.

The following supplies are needed:

1. A piece of wire fence five feet high and 15 feet long.
2. At least two pounds of all-purpose garden fertilizer (8-8-8).
3. Two wheelbarrow loads of good soil.
4. Abundant organic compost.

Choose a sunny location in the garden or near the house. Break up the soil to a depth of a few inches. Place the circle of wire in the center of the prepared ground. Put in a layer of organic amendment like compost six inches deep in the bottom of the wire ring. Add a 3-4 inch layer of soil, then another 6 inch layer of compost and a second layer of soil. Add a

pound of fertilizer, (about two heaping handfuls) or a gallon of rotted manure. Make the top of the pile somewhat dish-shaped so it will hold water. Wait a week. Plant. Set three or four plants equally spaced around the outside of the wire, and fertilize them very lightly to get them started.

As the young plants grow, they will develop roots in the compost and soil, and after that growth becomes very rapid. Tie the plants to the wire as they grow. Water twice weekly over the compost and around the base of plants. Watch for insects and disease.

When production becomes heavy, put 3-5 pounds of fertilizer on top of the compost and soil and water it in.

(Stephens, Vegetarian 97- April & May)

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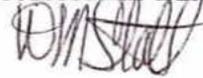
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