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I. NOTES OF INTEREST

A. Vegetable Crops Calendar


II. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

A. Tomato Institute '97

9:00 Introductions

9:10 D. Cantliffe - Impressions of Mexico's fresh market vegetable agriculture, pre and post NAFTA.

9:40 D. Archer - The future of food safety regulations for the fresh produce industry.

9:55 T. Howe - Plum tomato variety evaluations.

10:10 C. Vavrina - Heirloom tomatoes.

10:25 R. Hochmuth - Cluster tomatoes.

10:40 H. Klee - Ethylene and symptom formation in bacterial speck and spot diseases.

11:00 S. Sargent - Harvest maturity, storage temperature and internal bruising affect tomato flavor.

11:15 R. Getz - Agricultural weather forecasting - What it is, What it isn't.

LUNCH ... 11:30 TO 1:00

1:00 D. Botts - Methyl Bromide (MB) and the TEAP report.

1:15 J. Noling - Alternatives to MB for nematode management.

1:30 D. Chellemi - Alternatives to MB for soilborne disease management.

1:45 J. Gilreath - Alternatives to MB for weed management.

2:00 M. Barineau - Alternatives to MB from a plant breeding perspective.

2:15 J. Polston - Current situations with gemini viruses or what will blow in on the next hurricane?

2:30 P. Weingartner - The late blight update.

2:45 S. Webb - TSWV and vector update.

3:00 D. Schuster - SLWF threshold levels for irregular ripening in tomato.

3:15 P. Cockrell - Bay friendly farming-Dade County perspectives.

3:30 J. Carranza - N/K fertigation and cultivar effects on drip irrigated tomato.

3:45 Y. Li - Phosphorus nutrition for tomato in calcareous soils.

(Vavrina, Vegetarian 97-07)
B. Florida Strawberry Jam 15

Tuesday, August 26

8:00  Registration and Refreshments
8:30  Mike Lott - Welcome
8:40  Joe Noling - Methyl bromide update- where science meets politics.
9:10  Charlie Sims - Berry best tastes.
9:40  Jim Price - Short course-brigade- IPM sap beetle; bug buffet.
10:10 Eric Bish - Giving a plug for tray plants.
10:40 Coffee Break and Prize Drawings
11:00 Russ Mizell - IPM, old hat or new vision?
11:30 Craig Chandler - Is there life after sweet charlie?
12:00 Lunch/Presentation
   Bob Crawford - Country of origin, medflies and food safety.
1:15  Suzanne Cady - Plant source-north versus south.
1:45  Dan Legard - What's new with strawberry disease control?
2:15  Tim Crocker - Berry production beneath the pyramids.
2:45  Craig Chandler - Advanced testing program.
3:15  Prize Drawings/Adjourn

Wednesday, August 27

7:45  Early Bird Breakfast/Registration
8:45  Walter Kates - Social security verification - the real world link to employee eligibility.
9:15  Ray Gilmer - Media contacts- challenge or opportunity.
9:45  Charlie Matthews - Food safety begins at the field level.
10:15 Coffee Break and Prize Drawings
11:00 Dan Botts - Surviving the change in the food quality protection act.
11:30 Kathy Lyles - Agriculture regulatory streamlining.
12:00 Noon
1:00  Doug Manson - Protecting legal rural water uses.
1:30  Erin Freel - Promotions-reaching the consumer.
2:00  Prize Drawings/Adjourn

C. Response of Cucumber to Meister Controlled-Release Fertilizers

Cucumbers were grown last fall (1996) in Gainesville, FL to evaluate Meister polymer-coated fertilizers (Helena Chemical Company, Memphis, TN). The two fertilizers used were Meister 15-5-15 and Meister 19-5-14 each applied at rates to achieve 75, 125, 175, 225, and 275 lb N per acre. The fertilizers were applied in a 4-inch wide band in the center of the bed surface. Beds were on 4-foot centers and covered with white-on-black film with drip irrigation tubing laid on
the surface (center) of the beds before mulching. Two rows of 'Dasher II' cucumbers were seeded through the mulch on 22 August with 12 inches between rows and plants in rows.

Cucumbers were harvested seven times beginning 1 October through 28 October. Yield responses to fertilizer leveled off near the recommended rate of 150 lb N per acre.

Use of controlled-release N resulted in the same yields as soluble fertilizer at 175 lb per acre. Controlled-release fertilizer applied broadcast resulted in yields similar to those of plants grown with banded fertilizer.

(Hochmuth, Vegetarian 97-07)

Table 1. Response of cucumber to Meister controlled-release fertilizer, Gainesville, Fall, 1996.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Fertilizer</th>
<th>N rate (lb/acre)</th>
<th>Marketable yield (50-lb ctn per acre)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15-5-15</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1490</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>1460</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>1540</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>1660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>19-5-14</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>390</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>soluble x</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>15-5-15 BC x</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LSD (0.05)

15-5-15 270 1505
19-5-14 290 1470
### III. VEGETABLE GARDENING

#### A. Community Gardening in Florida

1. **Purpose of Community Gardens (CG).**

   a. Community gardens provide a means for individuals and families to have a vegetable garden even though they have insufficient space or soil where they live.

   b. Community gardens can help utilize otherwise waste and unsightly sites such as vacant lots and cluttered fields.

   c. Community gardens foster a sense of community pride and social interaction.

   d. Community gardens provide the many benefits of growing fresh vegetables to limited resource families as well as to others of more substantial means.

   e. Community gardens incorporate the learning process of demonstration teaching for inexperienced and experienced gardeners as well.

2. **Organization**

   a. CG's are traditionally organized and conducted by such groups as government, church, social club, housing developments, health care facilities, school, or private business.

   b. Normally, there needs to be a sponsoring group and a supervisory group. It is essential to identify an individual as the project leader.
c. The role of the Extension Service is educational in nature, serving to advise the organizing group on how to set up and operate the garden, and how to grow the crops. Extension agents should not be expected to perform organizational or leadership duties relative to any community garden. However, Florida Master Gardeners may assume this role with the agents' permission.

d. The CG committee however formed and empowered, will need to thoroughly determine the need for such a project within a specific community, and accurately assess the probability of success for the venture.

3. Location

a. Obviously the CG should be located within or adjacent to the area where most of the residents who will use the garden live or attend regularly.

b. Some of the most frequently utilized locations are: school yards, inner-city vacant property lots, and government property

c. It is sad, but some neighborhoods are just too unsettled and crime-ridden for a CG to succeed. Experience elsewhere has shown the unfairness of asking gardeners to make considerable inputs in time, money, and effort into planting a garden only to lose it to vandalism and theft.

4. Site/plots

a. Once a community is targeted, the actual site for the CG must be selected.

b. Look for a site that is reasonably level, cleared of trees, trash, or structures, and moderately well drained.

c. A source of irrigation water must be included in the site plan.

d. The size of the CG site should be large enough to accommodate at least ten gardeners. Thus, the actual area for growing the crops should be a minimum of 5,000 square feet (1/10 acre, approx.), not including area for parking. Most sites will range from one to three acres in size.

e. It is best to select a fenced-in area, or to fence the boundary of the CG site. Individual plots need not be fenced, although quite often even these are fenced, usually by the individual gardeners.

f. The number of plots will vary from one CG to another, there being no standard. However, it is unusual to find less than 10 or more than 100.

g. Size of individual plots also varies, but averages about 300-600 sq ft. Some of the more popular plot sizes are: 15x20, 20x20, 20x25, 25x25, and 20x30.

5. Plot assignment

a. Assign plots on the basis of the rules and restrictions as drawn up and agreed upon. Usually, this will be on a first-come basis. However, a system of lottery has also been used successfully in some projects.
6. Site Clearing/plowing

a. It is the responsibility of the sponsor and project supervisor to get the site cleared, plowed, and ready for assignment. In some projects, this labor is provided by the participants in a “work-day” fashion.

b. To facilitate plowing, individual plot fencing, irrigation tubing, and other gardening paraphernalia must be removed by gardeners according to established rules, and by certain dates.

7. Irrigation

a. Provision must be made for irrigation, either on an individual plot basis (preferred), or the overall garden site. It is best for individuals to have the means to water independent of others, since each has specific crop needs and to reduce the labor requirement. Cost of water and how it is purchased must be considered and included in the rules. Some projects charge a water-fee collected by the manager (either monthly or periodically). Others include the water charge in the plot rental.

7. Fees

a. Fees per plot are the general rule. Unless there is a benefactor involved, a fee is necessary to defray the general expenses of the over-all project. Such expenses might include: irrigation (water and supply equipment; liming; plowing; staking; mulching material; common tools; and plot rental. Usually, fees have ranged from $3 to $10 per plot per season, but with inflation would appear more realistic at $10-$20 per plot. Sponsors often pick up the tab for needy gardeners in certain projects, especially with youth groups. Whatever the fee, it should be well publicized and entered into the rules sheet. Obviously, one person such as the project supervisor should be responsible for collection and disbursement of fees.

9. Rules and Regulations

a. Every CG project should have a well-written set of rules and regulations for everyone to go by. In addition to the rules, an application form (including a Contract Agreement) is strongly recommended.

Here are some of the points the RULES should contain:

- Release from liability
- Period of occupancy
- Special reasons for vacating or losing gardening privileges
- Grievance procedures
- Allowable and prohibited gardening practices and products
- Rules on watering, etc.
- Hours of operation for the garden
- List others (than yourself) that are authorized to visit your garden
- Special rules on the common use of tools
- A plat of the CG

10. Permits

a. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring group to be aware of and abide by all of the local (city and county) ordinances and permit requirements pertaining to the Community Gardening project.
11. Application Form/Contract of Agreement

a. Contains information about the gardener
b. Contains reason for wanting a plot
c. Special needs or handicaps
d. Signature of applicant
e. Number of plots, and location
f. Release from liability (signature)
g. Rules on liability and authorization
h. Dates (signed, application due, for plot access, etc.)
i. Where to send completed form
j. Acceptance signature block (signed by person accepting application)
k. Status indication (i.e. "accepted", on waiting list", etc.)

(Stephens, Vegetarian 97-07)

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