Vegetarian 90-11
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Contents

I. NOTES OF INTEREST
   A. Vegetable Crops Calendar.
   B. New Publications.

II. PESTICIDE UPDATE
   A. Alachlor Withdrawal in Florida.
   B. Section 18 for Use of Diquat in Tomato and Pepper Row Middles.

III. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES
   A. Icebox Watermelon Cultivars for Florida.

IV. VEGETABLE GARDENING
   A. 4-H Water Management Project.
   B. Weed Identification Publication.

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I. NOTES OF INTEREST

A. Vegetable Crops Calendar.

November 27-29, 1990. Commercial vegetable program planning meeting for County faculty. West Palm Beach.


February 9, 1991. 4-H/FFA Horticulture Contest. Florida State Fair, Tampa.

March 11-15, 1991. Horticultural Sciences Course HOS 5330 "Commercial Harvesting and Postharvest Handling of Horticultural Crops." Available for 1 graduate credit or 1 Continuing Education Unit. Contact Dr. Steve Sargent for more information (904) 392-7911).

B. New Publications.


II. PESTICIDE UPDATE

A. Alachlor withdrawal in Florida.

The Monsanto Company informed the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on October 24, 1990 its intention to voluntarily discontinue all sales of alachlor herbicide products in the state of Florida effective immediately. Alachlor is marketed under Lasso R and other trademarks.

In a letter from Monsanto it was stated that "As a condition for continued registration, several Florida agencies required Monsanto to conduct a series of expensive groundwater monitoring studies." "... the costs associated with completing these tests exceeded annual sales."

Monsanto has requested that retailers be permitted to sell existing stocks through December 31, 1990 and also that growers be permitted to use alachlor products which they presently have on hand or purchased prior to the end of this year.

(Stall, Vegetarian 90-11)

B. Section 18 for use of Diquat in Tomato and Pepper Row Middles.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has renewed the Section 18 specific exemption for the use of Diquat Herbicide H/A to control nightshade and parthenium on tomatoes and green peppers.
A maximum of 18,500 pounds active ingredient may be used to treat a maximum of 12,000 acres of tomatoes and 6,500 acres of green peppers throughout the state.

A maximum of 2 ground applications at a rate of 0.5 lb a.i. per acre may be made per season. A thirty day PHI will be observed. The specific exemptions expire August 31, 1991.

(Stall, Vegetarian 90-11)

III. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

A. Icebox Watermelon Cultivars for Florida.

Icebox watermelons are small-fruited types weighing between 6 and 12 lbs. They have been available for some time, but have never attained commercial importance in the United States. 'New Hampshire Midget' was introduced by the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station in 1951. Although new in concept, it failed to become commercially acceptable because of susceptibility to Fusarium wilt, relatively weak rinds, large and numerous seeds, and only fair quality. 'Sugar Baby', another icebox cultivar was developed by M. Hardin of Geary, Oklahoma and introduced by Woodside Seed Co. in 1956. It has some of the same shortcomings as 'New Hampshire Midget', but has attained a fair degree of popularity in various parts of the world outside of the United States.

Although the number of icebox watermelon cultivars remains quite small in comparison to large-fruited types, some recently-introduced and soon-to-be-released cultivars offer promise for enhancement of this segment of the watermelon industry. The rationale for increased icebox watermelon production is that social and demographic changes in the U.S. population favor production of smaller size watermelons that are more compatible with smaller households.

Evaluation of icebox watermelon cultivars have been made continuously at the Central Florida Research and Education Center - Leesburg and the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center - Bradenton for several years, and at other locations periodically. The most outstanding cultivars in each rind color that have been identified in these trials are 'Mickylee', an open-pollinated cultivar producing oval-round fruit with a gray rind with dark-green lines; 'Southern Belle', a hybrid producing oval to oblong fruit with a very dark-green rind; and 'Tiger Baby', a hybrid producing oval fruit with a dark-green stripe on a light-green background rind.

Icebox watermelons merit consideration by watermelon growers to supplement standard watermelon production for additional market potential.

(Maynard, Vegetarian 90-11)

IV. VEGETABLE GARDENING

A. 4-H Water Management Project.

In a year when it seems the entire state is drying up and water shortages tops the list of environmental concerns, it was welcome news to learn that our 4-H horticulture program has received a grant of $5,000 to address water issues.

The grantor is SSU Services, which owns water plants around the state. They want the $5,000 to be spent in 4-H projects that demonstrate the growing of horticultural plants with least use of water.

Our 4-H Horticultural Advising Committee of which I am current chairman, has devised a plan for this
project which we call 4-H SSU-Environmental Landscape Management.

Through our committee working with SSU personnel, we will offer six grants of $750.00 and one of $500.00. These seven mini-grants will go to seven Florida counties who submit the best proposals for utilizing the money in 4-H projects on water management.

We are developing the project literature which will include a) leader’s guide similar to Community Pride, b) proposal outline/form, and c) report form. Here is the timetables for Extension 4-H and horticultural agents to keep in mind in order to participate in this project.

Dec. 1, 1990 Initial mailing of forms to counties.
Feb. 1, 1991 County proposals due back to Jim Stephens (Gainesville).
Mar. 1, 1991 Selected proposals will be funded.
Aug. 1, 1991 Reports forms due back to Jim Stephens (Gainesville).
Aug. 1991 Reports will be judged, winners selected, and awards presented.

It is anticipated that these county projects will be similar to the current Community Pride projects. However, these SSU projects must relate to the wise use of water in horticulture endeavors. Here are some examples of project ideas:

- Efficient irrigation of community gardens
- Wise watering landscape demonstrations
- Xeriscaping demonstrations

Group activities and projects are encouraged; however, an individual’s project might conceivably be awarded a grant.

I am asking all county horticultural personnel to pass this information on to the appropriate members of your staff to be alert for further work on this project.

We are particularly thankful to Lane Jimison, State 4-H Department, for her work in securing these funds.

(Stephens, Vegetarian 90-11)

B. Weed Identification Publications.

From time to time those of us in Extension, including Master Gardeners, are called upon to identify unknown plant species. Most often these turn out to be weeds. Of course, before we can mount an all-out attack on these unwanted guests in our gardens, we must first know the enemy!!

Two of the best publications around to help with the task are "Weeds in Florida" and "Florida Weeds - Part II - A Supplement to Weeds of the Southern United States." Both of these fine publications are available at low cost from IFAS Publications.

Weeds in Florida, SP-37, was written by David Hall and Vernon Vandiver, both of IFAS. It contains 40 terrestrial and aquatic weeds of economic importance in Florida. Not only is there text on description, history, range, and biology, there are also color photographs of both the seedling and the adult stage of each weed. Here is a listing of the weeds covered:

- Bagpod
- Balsam-apple
- Black Medic
- Brazil Pusley
- Brazilian Senna
- Common Beggars-tick
- Creeping Wood Sorrel
- Curly Dock
- Cutleaf Ground-cherry
- Cypress-vine Morning-glory
- East Indian Hygrophila
- Florida Betony
- Florida Pusley
- Heartwing Sorrel
- Hemp Sesbania
- Horse-nettle
- Hydrilla
- Jimson Weed
- Lamb’s-quarters
- Limnophila
- Maypop
- Mexican-tea
- Partridge Pea
- Pitted Morning-glory
- Purple Nutsedge
- Rosary
Pea, Scarlet Morning-glory, Sharp-pod Morning-glory, Sicklepod, Small-flower Morning-glory, Southern Sandspur, Southern Yellow Wood Sorrel, Wild Radish, Yellow Nutsedge

_Florida Weeds, Part II_ was written back in 1977 as a supplement to _Weeds of the Southern United States_. The authors, all noted IFAS scientists, include the following: J.R. Orsenigo, D.S. Burgis, W.L. Currey, D.W. Hall, W.T. Scudder, T.J. Stelter, and D.B. Ward.

Circular 419, _Florida Weeds, Part II_, contains color photographs and descriptions of 50 Florida weed species.

Both publications are available from IFAS Publications, Building 664, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0001. Make checks payable to "University of Florida".

*Florida Weeds, Part II* price $1.00 per copy (plus .06 cents tax for Florida residents). *Weeds in Florida* price $7.00 (plus .42 cents tax for Florida residents).

Agents, please help sell our inventory of these and other IFAS "for-sale publications" by displaying a public notice in your office or by other appropriate means.

(Stephens, Vegetarian 90-11)

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