Vegetarian 94-1

January 20, 1994

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I. NOTES OF INTEREST

A. Vegetable Crops Calendar.


February 24, 1994. Florida Weed Science Society Meeting. Auditorium (Exhibit Hall), Clayton Hutchenson Agricultural Services Center, 9:00 - 4:00 pm. West Palm Beach, FL. Contact W. M. Stall.

II. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES


Holiday Inn West, Gainesville
Registration $25.00

Wednesday, February 9, 1994
Moderator - Charles S. Vavrina, University of Florida.

1:00 Presidents Address - Dick Barrett, Plants of Ruskin.

Packaging & Storage

1:15 Stuart Akers (Asgrow) - Enhancement of vegetable seed.

2:25 Dick Sayers (Asgrow) - Packaging of vegetable seed.

2:45 Jerry Montgomery (Ball) - Packaging of flower seed.

3:05 Dan Cantliffe (UF) - Basics of seed storage.

Coffee Break

Seed Treatment & Disease Control

3:35 Kyle Rushing (Gustafson) - New chemical treatments for hort. crops.

4:05 Peiter Vandenberg (Peto) - Cl & hot water treatments.

4:25 Hossein Rabani (Ferry Morris) - Film coating.

4:55 Discussion & Adjournment

6:00 FSGS Social Hour & Banquet - Speaker: Earl Wells (FNCA Exec. V.P.)

Thursday, February 10, 1994

Moderator - Dan Cantliffe, University of Florida.

Bioengineered Varieties

8:30 Joe or Nate Esformes (Pacific Land Co.) - The bioengineered tomato; where they fit in FL.

8:50 Mark Stowers (NTG Garguilo) - Monsanto's and NTG Garguilo's perspective on the bioengineered tomato markets and opportunities.
9:20 Kanti Rawal (Calgene) - The Calgene program; genetics and marketing.

Field Seed

9:50 Jeff Mullahey (UF) - Cover crops in SW Florida.

10:10 Ron Barnett (UF) - Grain crop variety development & releases.

10:30 Dan Gorbett (UF) - IFAS peanut program.

Coffee Break

Industry Update

11:00 Dale Dubberly (FL Dept. Ag.) - Seed Technical Council: What it means to the seed industry.

11:20 Norm Nesheim (UF) - Worker Protection Safety: What does it mean to seed handlers?

11:40 Don Maynard (UF) - FACTS

11:50 Discussion & Adjournment

(Vavrina, Vegetarian 94-01)

III. HOME GARDENING


Now that the Spring 1994 mail-order seed company catalogs are arriving at street addresses all over Florida on a daily basis, gardeners are faced with the problem (actually it is fun) of making selections for the scarcest commodities in their gardens - space. Since the favorite item is still the tomato, some special help for choosing what kinds of tomatoes get the space this year seems appropriate.

Most gardeners buy transplants at garden supply centers so are somewhat "locked in" by what varieties are available at planting time. However, probably 15-25% start from seeds purchased thru catalogs or seed racks. Now is the time for these latter gardeners to buy seeds, either to sow right away in seed-beds/seedling containers, or to have on hand at the proper sowing time.

Florida-bred varieties

Because Florida is such an important state in the commercial production of tomatoes (crop valued at over $700 million in 1991-92 season), there have been many outstanding varieties developed and released by the University of Florida over the years. Seeds of many of these "native" old favorites are still available, along with the newer releases. Here are some that are still offered for sale to gardeners. Since these are custom "designed" for Florida's unique climate and growing conditions, gardeners might be wise to include some of these along with some other favorites such as 'Better Boy', which like most Florida gardeners, has become a "native" by acclimation.

Suggested University of Florida varieties

(Large fruyiting)

Flora-Dade: A determinate variety that sets a large number of medium size fruits ready to pick beginning 75 days from transplanting. Resistant to verticillium and fusarium wilt.

Floramerica: Good determinate, disease resistant variety adapted throughout the state. Early fruit (70 days) are over 1 pound each. Susceptible to root-knot nematodes.

Hayslip: Similar to Flora-Dade, but with improved yields of medium size fruits (80 days).
Manalucie: A leading commercial staking variety in the 1950's. Fruits are big, with a distinctive blossom-end "stitch". Gardeners also like it (80 days).

Manapal: An old favorite staking variety popular in fields/greenhouses during the 1960's. Fruits earlier (75 days) and a little smaller than 'Manalucie'.

Solar Set: Determinate wilt resistant variety that is noted for setting fruit in warmer conditions than for most other varieties. Fruits are medium size (70 days).

Suncoast: Medium size fruits are deep-red inside, uniform, and sweet flavored. Wilt resistant and determinate (75 days). Released especially for gardeners.

Tropic: Long vines needs support for the heavy yields of fairly-large red fruits (80 days). Resistant to fusarium wilt and certain other diseases.

Walter: Produces smooth red fruit that ripen well after harvest. Resistant to Fusarium wilt (races 1 and 2). Determinate (75 days).

(Small fruiting)

Florida Basket: Best for container culture, produces sweet, red 1-inch diameter fruits in 70 days.

Floragold Basket: Also for containers such as hanging baskets. These tiny plants produce golden colored cherry size fruits.

Micro Tom: Billed as the "world's smallest", this tiny tomato plant is only 6 inches tall, with delicious tiny red tomatoes. Great for container, and in the landscape. (Stephens, Vegetarian 94-01)

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