I. NOTES OF INTEREST

A. Vegetable Crops Calendar

II. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

A. Suwannee Valley Field and Greenhouse Vegetable Grower's Shortcourse and Trade Show.

B. 15th Annual Cucurbit/Vine Crops Meetings Set for January 4 in Jackson and Holmes Counties.

III. VEGETABLE GARDENING

A. Santa Rosa Composting Trial.

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I. NOTES OF INTEREST

A. Vegetable Crops Calendar.


January 17, 1996. Compost Symposium 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Southwest Fla. REC, State Rd. 29 N, Immokalee, FL. Contact Charlie Vavrina.

March 7-14, 1996. Florida Postharvest Horticulture Institute and Industry Tour. Contact Steve Sargent, Coordinator.

II. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

A. Suwannee Valley Field and Greenhouse Vegetable Grower’s Shortcourse and Trade Show.

SUWANNEE VALLEY FIELD AND GREENHOUSE VEGETABLE TRADE SHOW
Saturday, January 13, 1996
SUWANNEE COUNTY COLISEUM,
LIVE OAK, FL

8:30 am Registration and Trade Show (coffee and donuts)

9:15 Morning Concurrent Sessions (choose one)
Field Vegetable Session or Greenhouse Vegetable Session

11:30-1:00 Lunch and visit exhibits

1:00 pm Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (choose one)
Field Vegetable Session or Greenhouse Vegetable Session

2:30-4:30 Suwannee Valley REC Field and Greenhouse Demonstrations

Meal reservations at $5.00 each are required by January 10, 1995, Call (904) 362-1725.

*Credits (CEUs) will be granted for each session toward renewal of certification for pesticide applicators.

Sponsored by: Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, and area agribusinesses.

In compliance with the ADA Act, participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting the Suwannee Valley Research and Education Center at least five working days prior to the trade show. We can be reached by phone at (904) 362-1725, or by FAX at (904) 362-3067.
GREENHOUSE VEGETABLE SESSION
Extension Conference Room

Moderator:  Michael Sweat, Baker County Extension Director, Macclenny, FL

9:15 - 9:30 Welcome, Dr. Steve Ryan, Suwannee Valley REC, Center Director, University of Florida, IFAS, Live Oak, FL

9:30 - 9:45 What are The Problems and Solutions for North Florida? - Survey Results - Bob Hochmuth, Multicounty Extension Agent, Suwannee Valley REC, University of Florida, IFAS, Live Oak, FL

9:45 - 10:15 The Big Market Picture for Greenhouse Tomatoes
- NAFTA
- Vine Ripes
- Field Industry Impacts on Greenhouses
Dr. John Van Sickle, Marketing Economist, Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida, IFAS, Gainesville, FL


11:10 - 11:30 View From an Expanding Operation in the North Florida Area - Emil Belibasis, Owner/Operator, Beli Farms, Wellborn, FL

11:30 - 1:00 LUNCH

Moderator:  Bill Thomas, Columbia County Extension Director, University of Florida, IFAS, Lake City, FL

1:00 - 1:30 Biological Control Results and Associated Costs in 1994/95 Tomato Trials - Bob Hochmuth, Multicounty Extension Agent, Suwannee Valley REC, University of Florida, IFAS, Live Oak, FL

1:30 - 2:00 New Diseases in Tomatoes in North Florida and Other Disease Updates - Dr. Gary Simone, Associate Professor, Plant Pathology Department, University of Florida, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

2:30 - 4:30 Suwannee Valley Research and Education Center Field and Greenhouse Demonstrations

2 hydroponic greenhouses, tomatoes, cucumbers, rockwool, perlite, biological control and more. Mulch and drip irrigation demonstrations. Onion production, strawberries, row covers, herbicide trials, Chinese cabbage and more. Existing fruit and nut crop plantings include: blueberry, grape, persimmon, and chestnut.
FIELD VEGETABLE SESSION  
Exhibition II Building

Moderator:  Jim Fletcher, Madison County Extension Director, Madison, FL

9:15 - 9:30  Welcome, Dr. Christine Taylor Stephens, Dean for Extension, University of Florida, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

9:30 - 9:50  Preventing the Most Common Farm Safety Problems in Florida - Chris Pappas, Safety and Environmental Affairs, Mgr., Terra Asgrow Florida, Plant City, FL

9:50 - 10:20  Pesticide Compliance Simplified for the Farmer - Larry Halsey, Jefferson County Extension Director, University of Florida, IFAS, Monticello, FL

10:20 - 10:40  The “Dos” and “Dont’s” of Sprayer Tank Mixes - Dr. Tom Kucharek, Extension Pathologist, University of Florida, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

10:40 - 11:10  Weed Control in Mulched Row Middles - Dr. Bill Stall, Extension Specialist, Weed Control, Horticultural Sciences Dept., University of Florida, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

11:10 - 11:30  Using a Vegetable Sales Contract Wisely - Dr. John Van Sickle, Marketing Economist, Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

11:30 - 1:00  LUNCH

Moderator:  David Dinkins, Bradford County Extension Director, University of Florida, IFAS, Starke, FL

1:00 - 1:30  Everything You Wanted to Know About Mosaic Viruses - Dr. Susan Webb, Virus-Vector Studies, Central Florida REC, University of Florida, IFAS, Leesburg, FL

1:30 - 1:50  Economics of Transplanting vs Seeding Watermelon - Tim Hewitt, Food and Resource Economics, North Florida REC, University of Florida, IFAS, Marianna, FL

1:50 - 2:20  Nutrient Management When Fertigating With Drip Irrigation - Dr. George Hochmuth, Extension Specialist, Vegetable Crop Nutrition, Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

2:30 - 4:30  Suwannee Valley Research and Education Center Field and Greenhouse Demonstrations

2 hydroponic greenhouses, tomatoes, cucumbers, rockwool, perlite, biological control and more. Mulch and drip irrigation demonstrations. Onion production, strawberries, row covers, herbicide trials, Chinese cabbage and more. Existing fruit and nut crop plantings include: blueberry, grape, persimmon, and chestnut.

(Hochmuth, Vegetarian 12-95)
B. 15th Annual Cucurbit/Vine Crops Meetings Set for January 4 in Jackson and Holmes Counties.

The Jackson County and Holmes/Washington Extension Services are pleased to host the 15th Annual Cucurbit/Vine Crops Meetings on Thursday, January 4, 1996. The Jackson County Farm Center, Highway 90 (west of Marianna) will be the site of the afternoon session; registration will begin at 2:30 pm CST and the session will adjourn at 5:00 pm. The meetings will be repeated in an evening session at the Holmes County Agricultural Center, Highway 90 (east of Bonifay); registration there will be at CST, and the session will adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Two CEU’s have been requested for Restricted Use Pesticide Applicators. While still in the planning stages at press time for this newsletter organizers expect to follow this agenda.

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CUCURBIT/VINE CROPS MEETINGS

2:30 PM - Marianna and 7:00 PM - Bonifay

15 min.  Registration/CEU forms

10 min.  Fertilizer Recommendations for Melons and Other Cucurbits Grown on Plastic and Dirt; Bob Hochmuth, Multi-County Extension Agent-IFAS Research Center and Suwannee County Extension Office-Live Oak

10 min.  Crop Nutrient Requirements for Cucurbits/Melons, etc., Dr. George Hochmuth, Horticultural Sciences Department, Gainesville

15 min.  Varieties of Watermelons and Other Cucurbits That Have the Best Yield Potentials, and Disease Resistances, if any; Dr. Steve Olson, Vegetable Specialist, NFREC, Quincy

15 min.  Fruit Blotch Update-Watermelons and Resistance by Squash Varieties for Viral Diseases; Dr. Tom Kucharek, Plant Pathologist, UF-IFAS

10 min.  Questions/Discussion for the First 3 Speakers

10 min.  Break/Refreshments-Sponsored by Seed Companies
III. VEGETABLE GARDENING

Santa Rosa Composting Trial.

Under the leadership of Dan Mullins, Santa Rosa County Extension Agent, the northwest Florida communities of Milton-Pace looked at three common methods of composting their landfill yard trash and evaluated those physical and chemical properties that related to the product’s use as a soil amendment. During the winter of 1994 three piles of yard waste were constructed in “windrows” 36 feet long by 8 feet wide and 5 feet high. These piles were composted by three separate methods: a) without additives, b) with aged compost applied intermittently (one 2-inch layer per 12 inches of raw compost) to “start” the composting, and c) by applying fertilizer (13-13-13) and limestone (dolomite) with the organic yard waste.

Following 7 months of turning and irrigating these three piles, samples of the final product were screened and weighed according to three sieve sizes (plus unscreened). With all three composting methods, about 90 percent by volume of the particulates passed through a 1-inch sieve, and 40 to 58 percent by volume passed a 1/4 inch size sieve. Laboratory analyses showed only a slight increase in the level of nitrogen contained in the compost where fertilizer had been applied, indicating that the micro-organisms had utilized most of the N in decomposing the organic matter. The result of this study shows that a satisfactory soil amendment suitable for horticultural usage may be expected from each of three commonly used composting procedures.

Conclusion
A. The windrowing method of composting as demonstrated by the Santa
Rosa County communities provides a satisfactory way for converting yard waste into useful compost and thereby creating an alternative to land filling.

B. While windrowing without additional amendments results in adequate decomposition of yard trash for useful compost, the process is accelerated and a finer-grade product is obtained through the use of fertilizer amendments, both organic and inorganic. This study appears to show that organic compost may have an additional benefit over commercial fertilizer in that it is a source of inoculum.

C. While the nutrient level of compost made from Santa Rosa yard trash is low as compared with commercial fertilizer, previous tests with similar compost have shown that the use of fairly large amounts of compost (20-40 T/A) results in good crop production. Therefore, at these rates, the Santa Rosa compost, even non-amended, could supply around 100-200 pounds N, 16-32 pounds P, and 20-40 pounds K per acre.

(Stephens, Vegetarian 12-95)

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