UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Horticultural Sciences Department
VEC 3221C Fall 2006
Commercial Vegetable Production

Instructor: Bala Rathinasabapathi, Ph.D.
Room 2231 Fifield Hall
Phone 352-392-1928 x 323
Section 5452
Lecture: Mon, Wed and Fri 7th Period (1:55 pm – 2:50 pm)
    Room 2316, Fifield Hall
    Lab Wed 8th – 9th period (2:55 pm – 4:55 pm). Room 2318, Fifield Hall

Office hours: By Appointment; e-mail brath@mail.ifas.ufl.edu
Course Homepage: http://www.hos.ufl.edu/vec3221.htm

Required Textbook:


Other Optional References:


Objective:
The principles and practices of successful commercial vegetable production will be presented. Crop requirements, growth patterns and production techniques are emphasized along with discussion of consumption/marketing patterns and U.S. and Florida production areas. The laboratory involves field trips to farming operations and guest lectures from individuals in the vegetable production industry. Each member of the class will also develop a vegetable garden with different crops suitable for Fall production.

General Syllabus:
Lecture information and laboratory experiences will instruct the student in the specific production practices and technology, as well as other important information required to successfully grow various vegetable crops.
For each crop grouping, the student will learn:

1. The botanical classification, horticultural types, origin, and history of each crop.
2. The scope and importance of production in the US, including where the crop is grown, commercial acreage, value and average yields.
3. Important aspects of vegetable growth and development, especially in relation to plant response to environmental factors and how they may affect production practices.
4. Specific climatic and cultural requirements of each crop.
5. Methods of planting, plant spacing and populations, and specialized procedures such as seed treatments.
6. Standard and evolving production practices and requirements necessary for successful production.
7. Leading cultivars and their important characteristics and new developments in breeding of specific crops.
8. Pests and significant physiological disorders.
9. Harvesting procedures and post-harvest handling of crops.

Format:
4-credit course for majors and non-majors. No pre-requisites.

Vegetable Crop production Assignment: The students will cultivate a variety of vegetable cultivars as part of their laboratory. Specific projects will be assigned to groups of students. Students will write a report on the outcome of the project for grade (25%) and shorter reports on field trips or on specific given topics (25%).

Evaluation:
Students will be evaluated based on the following:

- Class attendance: 100 points
- Assignment: 100 points
- Lab or trip reports: 100 points
- Quizzes/Tests: 100 points

TOTAL: 400 points

Grades for the course will be assigned according to established university policy.

90-100 = A  85-89 = B+  80-84 = B  75-79 = C+  70-74 = C  65-69 = D+
Course policies and procedures

1. Homework: Activity reports or other homework are due on the dates indicated. 10% deducted for incomplete homework or not on time by one week. No credit will be given for labs or field trip reports one week after the due date.

2. Late homework policy: Late homework may be handed in at the discretion of the instructor (following the day when it is due) with a 20% penalty. No homework will be accepted after the final class meeting. If you are having trouble with homework, please see me immediately.

3. Test Makeups will be arranged in the case of an emergency and must be scheduled within a week of the original test and at the convenience of the instructor.

4. Follow all safety regulations in and out of the classroom. Personal safety during labs and field trips is individual’s responsibility.

5. By registering for classes, every student has signed the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty, and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University”. Honor Code violations in this course will not be tolerated, and may result in the assignment of a failing grade. Students observing an Honor Code violation should report them to the instructor or T.A. immediately.

6. All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

7. Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include: University Counseling Center (392-1575), Personal counseling at Student Mental Health (392-1171), Sexual Assault Recovery Services (392-1161) and Career Resource Center (392-1601).