Greenhouse Production of the Famous St. Augustine Hot Pepper, the Datil (Capsicum chinense var.)

Datil pepper (Capsicum chinense var.) is well known throughout St. Augustine, FL where it has been cultivated since the 1700s. Liked for their unique sweet-hot flavor, datil peppers are used for cooking, hot sauces, relishes, and other condiments. Mainly grown in backyard gardens, numbers of plants grown for commercial purposes are unknown. Seeds are not commercially available, but found via the internet, festivals, Master Gardeners, or as family heirlooms. Four seed selections were cultivated under passively ventilated greenhouse conditions in Citra, FL. Seeds were sown 26 January 2006 and transplanted into 11-L pots filled with pine bark on 15 March. Plants were grown at 2.2 plants/m² until 2 August when plants were cut back to 30-cm height and re-spaced at 0.5 plants/m². Plants were harvested 6 times from 8 June to 31 July at 2.2 plants/m² and 4 times at 0.5 plants/m² from 26 Oct. 2006 to 3 Jan. 2007. For further information on how to find a suitable plant selection and to a method for greenhouse production of datil peppers for year-round production please refer to the following publication http://www.hos.ufl.edu/protectedag/pdf/FSHS2008datil.pdf

If you have any questions or you need a paper copy of this publication email agazula@ufl.edu or request a copy from your Alachua County Extension Service Office

Left: Datil pepper (Capsicum chinense var.) plants. Right: A “true” datil pepper has the following characteristics: a golden-orange color, about 3 g in weight, 3-4 cm long with a slightly blunt tip and both sweet and hot characteristic flavor and aroma
Southern SARE Invites Producer Proposals

The calls have been released for the 2010 Southern Region SARE Producer Grants. Proposals are due by November 15, 2009. Obtain the calls at: http://www.southernsare.uga.edu/callpage.htm

Southern SARE Producer Grants are only open to farmers and/or ranchers or producer organizations. Any farmer/rancher or producer organization in the US SOUTHERN REGION is eligible to apply for the grants which have maximums of $10,000 for individual producers and $15,000 for producer organizations to be used within two years.

The purpose of this grant program is for farmers/ranchers to conduct projects to solve problems they face and develop information on what works and doesn’t work so that other farmers and ranchers facing those same problems can benefit from the results of the funded project.

While all SARE proposals must promote agricultural practices that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for rural communities, these grant programs have identified nine broad focus areas. Proposals are invited that address: soil health, beneficial insect habitat, alternative crops/livestock, organic agriculture, marketing, sustainable grazing systems, improving the sustainability of existing farming practices, appropriate technology, and agroforestry.

The Southern Region is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Full information and instructions can be found in the calls for proposals.

A copy of the calls for proposals can be obtained on the web at: http://www.southernsare.uga.edu/callpage.htm or by sending an email request to info@southernsare.org or by calling (770) 412-4787.

Advanced Topics in Hydroponics Program - Nutrient Management & Integrated Pest Management

This program will be held at North Florida Research & Education Center - Suwannee Valley, Live Oak, Florida.

Growers may choose to attend either Friday, Nov 13 or Saturday, Nov 14, 2009. Classes are limited to 30 participants per day. Cost of registration is $100 per attendee and includes: notebook with supporting materials, hand lens, CD of common pests, Pocket ID Guide, morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch. Registration will close at 5pm on Monday, November 2, 2009.

Outline of Nutrient Management Topics:
1. Nutrient solution formulations for hydroponic vegetables in Florida.
2. Review of fertilizer recipe options (pre mix and individual ingredient methods)
3. Myths and Facts about hydroponic fertilizer use
4. pH recommendations and testing methods
5. Calibrating acid additions to reach target pH
6. Measuring EC using various equipment
7. Using ion selective Cardy meters for solution and sap testing
8. Demonstrating incompatibility of Ca and P in concentrated solutions
9. Common nutrient deficiencies frequently seen
10. Common nutrient toxicities frequently seen
11. Proper tissue sampling procedures (most recently matured leaf)
12. Leachate monitoring principles
13. Injector maintenance and service

Outline of Integrated Pest Management Topics:
1. Principles in IPM
2. Insect morphology and feeding damage, signs and symptoms
3. Most common greenhouse vegetable pests
4. Importance of pest-transmitted viruses
5. ID of live pest and beneficial specimens using hand lenses and microscopes
6. Scouting tools, sampling techniques and “tricks of the trade”
7. Greenhouse pest exclusion
8. Selecting and maintaining screening materials for insect exclusion
9. Implementing a biological control program
10. Banker plant systems
11. Beneficial insects and their sensitivity to pesticides
12. Proper selection and safe use of pesticides
13. Managing insect resistance to pesticides

For further information contact:
Karen Hancock at 386-362-1725 ext 101
Email: khancock@ufl.edu
Wanda Laughlin at 386-362-1725 ext 104
Email: solus@ufl.edu

Or visit the below website:
http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/academy/advancedhydro.shtml
**Pesticide Updates**

**Methidathion:** The special local needs (SLN) registration for the use of the insecticide methidathion (Supracide®) in longan, carambola, and annona has been amended (SLN FL-990013). The maximum number of applications is now two per season for the annona crop group. (FDACS letter, 7/20/09).

**Phenothrin:** Based on a request by McLaughlin Gormley King, the EPA has approved tolerances for the mosquito insecticide phenothrin in or on all food/feed crops following wide-area mosquito adulticide applications. (*Federal Register*, 7/8/09).

**Pyrimethanil:** Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the fungicide pyrimethanil (Scala®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include postharvest citrus fruit (group 10) and also lemon pre-harvest. (*Federal Register*, 7/8/09).

**Cyazofamid:** Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the fungicide cyazofamid (Ranman®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include okra and fruiting vegetables (group 8). (*Federal Register*, 7/8/09).

**Buprofezin:** Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the insecticide buprofezin (Applaud®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include brassica head and stem crops (group 5A). (*Federal Register*, 7/10/09).

**Fenpyroximate:** Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the insecticide/miticide fenpyroximate (Portal®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include cucumber, okra, melon (group 9A), and fruiting vegetable (group 8). (*Federal Register*, 7/29/09).

**Indoxacarb:** Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the insecticide indoxacarb (Avaunt®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include bushberry (blueberry). (*Federal Register*, 7/10/09).

**Fenamidone:** Based on a request by IR-4 and Bayer CropScience, the EPA has approved tolerances for the fungicide fenamidone (Reason®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include cilantro, okra, turnip greens, and root vegetables except radish (group 1B). (*Federal Register*, 7/15/09).

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**Upcoming Programs**

**Technology & Drip Irrigation Updates for New and Intermediate Vegetable Growers**

- **October 7, 2009**
- **8:30 am - 2:30 pm**
- Alachua County Extension Service
  2800 NE 39th Avenue
  Gainesville, FL 32609

  **Pre-registration required**
  Registration fee is $10.00
  Register by: October 2, 2009
  For further information call 352-955-2402

**Private Applicator Agricultural Pest Control License Training**

- **Friday October 23, 2009**
- **8:30 am - 1:00 pm**
- Alachua County Extension Service
  2800 NE 39th Avenue
  Gainesville, FL 32609

  **Pre-registration required**
  Registration fee is $5.00
  Register by: October 21, 2009
  For further information call 352-955-2402

**Shiitake Mushrooms**

- **November 14, 2009**
- **11:00 am**
- Alachua County Extension Service
  2800 NE 39th Avenue
  Gainesville, FL 32609

  **Pre-registration required**
  Call: 352-955-2402 to register
  Learn the basics of shiitake mushroom production. Shiitake mushrooms are grown on oak logs. You will learn how to prepare and inoculate the logs for shiitake mushroom production.

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**Earn One Ag Row, Ag Tree, or Private Applicator CEU Online**

Read the article “Taking Down Disease” on [www.floridagrower.net](http://www.floridagrower.net) and then take the test.

Link to the article: [http://www.growingproduce.com/floridagrower/?storyid=2462](http://www.growingproduce.com/floridagrower/?storyid=2462)

For further information contact Aparna Gazula your Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent at 352-955-2402, email agazula@ufl.edu
Latest University of Florida/IFAS Extension Publications

“The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN): Ten Years of Providing Weather Information to Florida Growers”. This factsheet describes the history, data collection and delivery, data access, management tools, impact, and recognitions of this state-wide network of automated weather sites that has been providing weather data in support of Florida agriculture. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS511](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS511)

“Characteristics of Small Farm Operators in Florida: Economics, Demographics, and Preferred Information Channels and Sources.” This report summarizes the results from the 2008 University of Florida IFAS Extension & Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) Small Farm Survey. This information can then be used by Extension faculty to identify target audiences, develop relevant materials, and deliver this information through appropriate channels to assist farmers in achieving the goals of their small farm enterprises. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WC088](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WC088)

“Fuller Rose Beetle”. This factsheet describes this cosmopolitan beetle whose extensive list of hosts include citrus, cucurbits, strawberry, beans, peach, rhubarb, rose, and potato - synonymy, distribution, description, biology, host plants, damage, and management. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN678](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN678)

“Potential Woody Species and Species Attributes for Windbreaks in Florida.” This factsheet discusses attributes affecting species selection decisions when designing living windbreaks. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR286](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR286)

“Estimating Copper, Manganese and Zinc Micronutrients in Fungicide Applications”. This factsheet uses tomato as an example to list common sources of micronutrients in common fungicides, estimates micronutrient applications for an entire crop, and discusses the availability of these micronutrients so that the contributions of these sources of micronutrients can be factored in to the fertilizer programs for vegetable crops. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HS1159](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HS1159)

If you need paper copies any of these publications email agazula@ufl.edu or request a copy from your Alachua County Extension Service Office.