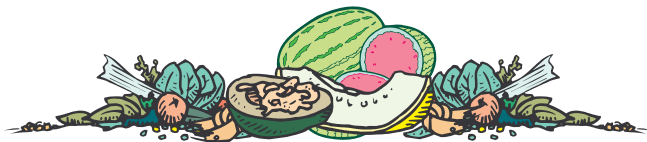


# VEGETABLE CROPS HOTLINE

A newsletter for commercial vegetable growers prepared by the  
Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

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<http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/ext/targets/newslett.htm>

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**WELCOME TO 2000** -(Dan Egel)- I hope all of you had a wonderful Holiday season and did not suffer from any Y2K bugs. Those of you who have paid for the *Vegetable Crops Hotline* for the year 2000 will continue to receive this publication. If you have joined the Indiana Vegetable Growers Association, your subscription to the *Hotline* was included in your membership. If you have not paid for the 2000 season, this will be the last *Hotline* issue you will receive. Contact me at the address above for a subscription form or you can find it on the web at: [www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/ext/targets/vegcrop/index2000.htm](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/ext/targets/vegcrop/index2000.htm). This is an excellent time to let us know what you do and don't like about the *Hotline*. Remember, it is your publication. Address all comments to the editor at the address shown above.

**SWEET CORN PLANTING DENSITIES** - (Mario Morales)- An experiment was conducted at the Meigs Farm, Lafayette, Indiana to determine what effect planting densities and tillering had on plant height and ear size (length, diameter and weight). Sweet corn variety "Silver King" was planted on 3 foot centers and the in-row spacing was varied between 15 inches (11, 616 plants/acre), 10 inches (17, 424 plants/acre), and 5 inches (34, 848 plants/acre). There were two tiller treatments, tiller and no-tiller. A tiller, also known as a sucker, is an extra shoot or stalk that arises from the crown of the plant.

Significant differences were observed for plant height, ear length and ear weight among plant densities. Plant height at the 5 inch spacing was significantly less than at the 10 or 15 inch spacing. Both ear length and ear weight increased significantly as the in-row spacing increased from 5 inches to 15 inches. There was no statistically significant difference between plots that were tillered and those that were not. However, plots with no tillers had a

tendency to have higher values for plant height, ear diameter and ear weight. The lack of significance was probably due to the low amount of tillers that 'Silver King' produces. Tiller cutting would be more

can be purchased by writing or calling the **Agricultural Communication Service, Media Distribution Center, 301 South Second St., Lafayette, IN. Or call 1-888-EXT-INFO (398-4636)**. Remember, always check the actual label before applying any pesticide. Follow the directions closely to avoid misapplication.

**NEW IN 2000** -(Dan Egel)- The 2000 edition of the *Midwest Vegetable and Production Guide* (ID-56) is now available. Several changes, which are outlined below, have been made this year.

- There is a new section on snail control. Included in this section is information on a product newly labeled for snail control (Clean Crop).
- A new section has also been written on transplant production. This new section includes advice on greenhouse structures, transplant production, sanitation and much more.
- Several vegetable varieties have been added to the ID-56 this year.
- Label information for Quadris fungicide is included in this year's issue. Quadris was labeled too late last year to be included in the ID-56.
- Flint fungicide use and rate information has been included (See *Vegetable Crops Hotline* issue 369). Flint is labeled for use on cucurbit crops for powdery and downy mildew.
- Many changes are included in formulation, rates, pre-harvest intervals (PHI) and re-entry intervals (REI) of several fungicides.
- The Poast label has been expanded to include beet, endive, escarole, horseradish, parsley, and rhubarb.
- PennCap M is no longer labeled for use on snap beans, lima beans, peas, or tomatoes.
- Capture is labeled for use on a variety of vegetable crops.
- Proclaim is labeled for use on crucifers and lettuce.
- SpinTor, Warrior, Provado, and Baythroid labels have been expanded.

The ID-56 can be purchased for \$7.50 at many winter vegetable meetings (see upcoming meetings in this issue). Otherwise, the ID-56

**DATA ON INDIANA VEGETABLE FARMS** - (Liz Maynard) - Have you ever wondered how many farms grow vegetables in Indiana? How many acres do they have? What do they grow? The USDA Agricultural Census and the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service collect and publish information about farm numbers, farm size, crops grown, value of crops, and much more. The table at the end of this article shows the number and acreage of farms growing vegetables reported in the last three Ag Censuses.

The first row of the table shows how many farms harvested vegetables for sale and the acreage of harvested vegetables for 1997, 1992, and 1987. With just over 1,100 farms reported in 1997, the total number of farms in vegetables has decreased about 6% from 1987. The total acreage, a little over 30,000 acres in 1997, has decreased about 8% since 1987. In 1992, both number and acreage of farms were higher than in 1987 or 1997.

The remaining rows of Table 1 break down the total number and acreage by size of vegetable acreage. In general, the number of small farms increased and the number of large farms decreased since 1987. Roughly 1 out of 10 vegetable farms (152 out of 1,125) harvested less than 1 acre in 1997. This was an increase of nearly 20% in the number of very small vegetable farms since 1987. Almost 6 out of 10 vegetable farms (647 out of 1,125) had between 1 and 15 acres of vegetables in 1997. This was very close to the number in 1987. About 3 out of 10 farms (326 out of 1,125) had more than 15 acres of vegetables in 1997. Half of those had 15 - 50 acres and half had more than 50 acres. The number of farms with 15 - 50 acres decreased 30% since 1987, and the number of farms with more than 50 acres decreased 11% since 1987.

Farms with fewer than 15 acres grow about 10% of the total vegetable acreage. Farms with 15 to 50 acres grow 15% of the total acreage. Farms over 50 acres represent about 3/4 of the total vegetable acreage.



Table 1. Number of farms harvesting vegetables for sale (not including potatoes), and acreage of vegetables harvested for sale in Indiana, 1997, 1992, 1987. From the 1997 and 1992 Census of Agriculture—State Data for Indiana, Table 42.

	1997		1992		1987	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
All Vegetable Farms	1,125	30,139	1,302	33,860	1,203	32,934
Less than 1 acre	152	(no data)	175	74	127	50
1 to 15 acres	647	2,923	756	3,370	658	3,272
15 to 50 acres	166	4,584	199	5,507	239	6,792
More than 50 acres	160	22,600 (est.)	172	24,909	189	22,820



**INFORMATION** -(Dan Egel and Roy Ballard)- Increasingly, it is becoming convenient for a lot of people to look to the internet as a source of information. The following is a list of web sites contributed by Richard W. VanVranken of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. In addition, we have added a few of our favorite web sites. If you do not have access to a computer or prefer other more traditional types of information, refer to the **New Edition** article in this issue. Listed is an address and phone number for information from Purdue University.

#### VEGETABLE PRODUCTION SITES

vric.ucdavis.edu/  
 www.orst.edu/dept/NWREC/vegindex  
 hammock.ifas.ufl.edu/txt/fairs/48330  
 ftsg.ifas.ufl.edu/  
 www.ces.ncsu.edu/hil/veg-index.html  
 aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/vegetable.html  
 ext.msstate.edu/anr/plantsoil/vegfruit or  
 www2.msstate.edu/~ricks/#15  
 ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/veg crops/  
 ag.arizona.edu/extension/programs/vegetables/  
 index.html  
 www.gov.on.ca/omafra  
 www.msue.msu.edu/iac/#Vegetable  
 agweb.okstate.edu/pearl/  
 persephone.agcom.purdue.edu/agcom  
 www.hort.purdue.edu/hort/ext/veg/reports.html

#### PEST MANAGEMENT SITES

www.rce.rutgers.edu/plantimagecollections.htm  
 ext.agn.uiuc.edu/wssa/  
 www.ipm.ucdavis.edu  
 ipmworld.umn.edu  
 www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ipmnet/ny/vegetables/  
 www.ippc.orst.edu/cicp/vegetable/vegindex.htm  
 www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/biocontrol/

#### WEEKLY/MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

www.rce.rutgers.edu/ag/plant&pestadvisory/1999/  
 index.htm  
 www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~vegnet/

www.aces.uiuc.edu/~ipm/news/fvnews.html  
 www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/vc\_hotline/  
 index.html  
 ag.arizona.edu/aes/yac/veginfo/  
 www.btny.purdue.edu/pubs/btnynews.html



**BULLETIN** -(Mario Morales)- A new bulletin, **HORTICULTURAL STUDIES AT PURDUE RESEARCH CENTERS AND FARMS IN 1999** (Morales, M.R. (Ed.)) has been produced and is ready for distribution. The purpose of this new bulletin is to compile and report on vegetable production, vegetable weed control, specialty crops, small fruits, tree fruits, and ornamentals research conducted by Purdue faculty and staff during the year.

The bulletin is available from the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University. Price: \$ 5.00. To order copies, send a note with your address, the number of copies you want and a check payable to PURDUE UNIVERSITY to: Jane Carter, Purdue University, 1165-Horticulture Bldg., West Lafayette, IN 47907-1165. Please, contact Ms. Carter if you need more information. Phone: (765) 494-1293, fax: (765) 494-0391, or email: carter@hort.purdue.edu.



#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **January 24-26** - 2000 Indiana Horticultural Congress & Trade Show - Adam's Mark Hotel, Indianapolis, IN. Contact Jim Simon at 765-494-1293 for more info.
- **February 8-10** - 12th Annual New York State Vegetable Conference, held at the Holiday Inn Syracuse & Convention Center, Liverpool, NY. Contact Jean Warholc at 607-539-7648, fax 607-539-3150.
- **February 10-12** - 2000 Ohio Fruit & Vegetable Growers Congress held in conjunction with the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference, Cincinnati, OH. Contact the Ohio Fruit & Vegetable Growers Congress at 614-249-2424.
- **February 16** - Southwest Indiana Vegetable and Melon Growers Association Meeting, Holiday Inn, Vincennes, IN. Contact Jerry Nelson at 812-882-3509.
- **February 17** - Vegetable Grower Meeting, 6:30 - 9:30 pm in the Barnyard Bash II Building at the Joe Huber Family Farm and Restaurant, Starlight, IN. Contact Roy Ballard at 812-948-5470 for more information.
- **April 1-2** - Indiana Gourd Society's 8th Annual Gourd Arts & Crafts Show, Johanning Civic Center, Kokomo, IN. Contact Barbara Puckett at 765-289-6462 or email at abal@home.com.

#### Disclaimer

Reference to products in this publication is not intended to be an endorsement to the exclusion of others which may have similar uses. Any person using products listed in this publication assumes full responsibility for their use in accordance with current directions of the manufacturer.



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