

2020–2021 Vegetable Production Handbook of Florida: Chapter 5. Ethnic Vegetable Production¹

Guodong Liu, Christian F. Miller, Bonnie Wells, Yuncong Li, and Qingren Wang²

Ethnic vegetable production in Florida contributes greatly to the diversity of the state's agricultural industry. More than 40 types of ethnic/Asian vegetables are commercially grown each year in Florida. In recent years, the increasing demand for these crops has resulted in a rapid expansion of ethnic vegetable production in northeast and south Florida. Though availability, profitability, and competitiveness have increased, one of the concerns creating confusion between producers and consumers is that many of the ethnic vegetable crops have different names in different countries and cultures. Another concern is that, for many of these crops, there are no science-based production recommendations available for ethnic-vegetable producers to follow. This unavailability of recommendations may limit the production of these crops as local growers attempt to determine crop requirements with limited guidance. Before specific recommendations are developed for these crops, ethnic vegetable growers should follow recommendations that are available for crop species closely related to these ethnic vegetables. This is especially important for pest control and pest management because it is usually very difficult to find particular pesticides labeled specifically for certain ethnic vegetable species.

The objectives of this publication are to (1) provide various names of some ethnic/Asian vegetable crops with EDIS publications available to readers; (2) list related chapters in this handbook, which provide recommendations for crops

close to these ethnic vegetables grown in Florida; and (3) list EDIS publications currently available for these crops. We strongly encourage growers of ethnic vegetables to follow the UF/IFAS recommendations for closely related crops until UF/IFAS recommendations for specific ethnic vegetable species are established.

Web links for EDIS publications available for ethnic/Asian vegetable growers in Florida:

Luffa—an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1285>

Tong Hao—an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1276>

Long Squash—an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1272>

Bitter Melon—an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1271>

Long Bean—an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1268>

Bok Choy, an Asian Leafy Green Vegetable Emerging in Florida. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1337>

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2. Guodong Liu, associate professor, Horticultural Sciences Department; Christian F. Miller, Extension agent II, UF/IFAS Extension Palm Beach County; Bonnie Wells, Extension agent II, UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County; Yuncong Li, professor, UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center; and Qingren Wang, Extension agent II, UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

Table 5.1. Common name and botanical classification for selected Asian vegetables.

Vegetable Type	Common Name	Other Names	Family Name	Related Crop Grown in Florida
Root	Daikon radish	Long white radish, Oriental radish, white radish, winter radish	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Radish (Chapter 15)
	Lobok radish	Chinese radish	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Radish (Chapter 15)
	Turmeric	Western ginger	Zingiberaceae	Root crops (Chapter 15)
Leafy	A choy	Taiwanese lettuce	Asteraceae (Compositae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
	Shalihon	Xue li hong, mustard green	Asteraceae (Compositae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
	Tong Hao	Tahn ho, Shungiku, crown daisy, garland daisy, edible chrysanthemum, garland chrysanthemum, or chrysanthemum greens	Asteraceae (Compositae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
	Napa	Napa cabbage	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Long napa	Peking cabbage, celery cabbage	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Shanghai bok choy	Bok choy, pak choi, bok choi, pok choy	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	U choy	Yu choy, Chinese greens	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Taiwan cabbage	Taiwan flat cabbage, Li Sun Cabbage, flathead cabbage	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Wawa choy	Baby Chinese cabbage	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Callaloo	Callaloo, calaloo, calaloo, kallaloo, Xian choy, amaranth, taro, Xanthosoma	Amaranthus (Amaranthaceae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
	Malabar spinach	Vine spinach, red vine spinach, climbing spinach, creeping spinach, buffalo spinach, Ceylon spinach	<i>Basella alba</i> (Basellaceae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
Flower	Gailon	Chinese broccoli (Kale)	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Broccoli (Chapter 6)
Fruit	Long squash	Po Gua, Poo Gua, Hu Gua, Opo squash, birdhouse gourd, bottle gourd, calabash gourd, hard-shelled gourd, dolphin gourd, long melon, opo squash, trumpet gourd, and white-flower gourd	Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber (Chapter 7)
	Fuzzy squash	Hairy gourd, fuzzy melon	Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber (Chapter 7)
	Luffa	Loofa, Loofah, Chinese okra, angled loofah, dishcloth sponge	Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber (Chapter 7)
	Kabocha	Japanese pumpkin, Kabocha squash, Kent pumpkin	Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber (Chapter 7)
	Long bean dark green	Asparagus bean, Chinese long bean, long-podded cowpea, and yardlong bean	Fabaceae	Legume (Chapter 10)
	Long bean white	Chinese long bean, haricot asperge, pea bean, dow gauk	Fabaceae	Legume (Chapter 10)
	Chinese eggplant	Aubergine, brinjal	Solanum (Solanaceae)	Eggplant (Chapter 8)
	Indian eggplant	Brinjal	Solanum (Solanaceae)	Eggplant (Chapter 8)
	Thai eggplant	Thai purple, Thai green, Thai yellow, Thai white	Solanum (Solanaceae)	Eggplant (Chapter 8)
Lablab beans	Hyacinth bean, bonavist bean/pea, dolichos bean, seim bean, Indian bean, cluster bean	<i>Lablab purpureus</i> (Fabaceae)	Cluster bean (Chapter 11)	