

Chapter 5. Ethnic Vegetable Production¹

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Ethnic vegetable production in Florida has shown great potential and contributed significantly to the market and diversity of the state's agricultural industry. More than 40 types of ethnic/Asian vegetables are commercially grown each year across Florida. In recent years, the increasing demand for these crops has resulted in a rapid expansion of Asian or ethnic vegetable production from northeast to south Florida. The acreage is rapidly increasing because of the demand and the niche market. 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 from different countries and cultures. Another concern is that, for many of these crops, there are no science-based production recommendations available for Asian or 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. However, before specific recommendations are developed for these specialty crops, ethnic vegetable growers should follow recommendations that are available for crop species closely related to these Asian or ethnic vegetables. This is especially important for pest control and pest management because it is usually very difficult to find pesticides labeled specifically for certain Asian or 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 crop types or species until UF/IFAS recommendations for specific ethnic vegetables have been established. In addition, some EDIS publications focusing on Asian or ethnic vegetable crops in recent years may be of help to relevant growers.

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

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

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

Chinese Mustard Cultivation Guide for Florida.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1402>

Daikon Radish Cultivation Guide for Florida.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1370>

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Florida Cultivation Guide for Malabar Spinach.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1371>

Leek Cultivation Guide for Florida.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1388>

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

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

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>

Table 1. Common name and botanical classification for selected Asian or ethnic 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, 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/pod	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, 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, 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)	