Vegetable production remains a tremendous industry for Florida in terms of acreage and value. Including vegetables, melons, potatoes, and strawberries, production occurred on approximately 251,011 acres and generated more than $1.34 billion in gross sales in 2016, which ranks second among all the states. Growing seasons are well defined by the peninsular geography, allowing Florida to serve as the main vegetable supplier during late fall, winter, and early spring months to the United States. Although more than 40 vegetable crops are commercially planted in the state, Florida ranks in the top three on production value of tomato, bell pepper, snap bean, squash, sweet corn, watermelon, cabbage, cucumber, and strawberry (Table 1).

The objective of this publication is to provide updated information on crop cultivars, pesticide labels, and certain practices for vegetable production in Florida. Suggested practices are guidelines for growers to plan farm activities and are always subject to review using the latest scientific data available.

Table 1. Vegetable production acreage and value in Florida.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Planted Acres</th>
<th>Value (million US$)</th>
<th>US Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>382.2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberry</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>449.7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell pepper</td>
<td>13,500</td>
<td>209.7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet corn</td>
<td>37,600</td>
<td>160.0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato</td>
<td>29,300</td>
<td>117.0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snap bean</td>
<td>28,200</td>
<td>105.6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermelon</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td>123.3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squash</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumber</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vegetables—2015–2016 summary, NASS, USDA.

1. This document is HS710, one of a series of the Horticultural Sciences Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Revised annually. Most recent revision May 2022. Visit the EDIS website at https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu for the currently supported version of this publication.

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Web Links to Additional Information on Vegetable Production Topics

UF/IFAS Extension provides information through Ask IFAS, the Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) found at https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu. Below is a partial list of EDIS articles pertaining to vegetable production for further information beyond the Vegetable Production Handbook of Florida.

### Vegetable Crop Production

**Complete Vegetable Production Handbook:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV292](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV292)

**Transplant Production:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV104](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV104)

**Introduction to Organic Crop Production:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV118](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV118)

**Value Added Agriculture: Is It Right for Me?:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FE638](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FE638)

**Farm to School:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_farm_to_school](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_farm_to_school)

**Row Covers for Growth Enhancement:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV201](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV201)

### Fertility and Irrigation

**Commercial Vegetable Fertilization Principles:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV009](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV009)

**Soil and Fertilizer Management for Vegetable Production in Florida:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV101](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV101)

**Controlled-Release and Slow-Release Fertilizers as Nutrient Management Tools:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1255](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1255)

**Cover Crops:** [https://ufdcimages.uflib.ufl.edu/IR/00/00/37/15/00001/AA21700.pdf](https://ufdcimages.uflib.ufl.edu/IR/00/00/37/15/00001/AA21700.pdf)

**Principles and Practices of Irrigation Management for Vegetables:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV107](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV107)

**Drip Irrigation in the BMP Era:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS172](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS172)

### Postharvest Quality and Handling Resources

**UF/IFAS Postharvest Quality & Technology:** [https://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/postharvest/](https://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/postharvest/)

**UF/IFAS EDIS (Electronic Data Information Source):** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_postharvest](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_postharvest)

**Postharvest Technology:** [http://postharvest.ucdavis.edu](http://postharvest.ucdavis.edu)

### Marketing and Regulatory Resources


**US Grade Standards for Fruits and Vegetables:** [https://www.ams.usda.gov/standards](https://www.ams.usda.gov/standards)

**National Agricultural Statistics Service:** [https://www.nass.usda.gov/fl/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/fl/)

**National Nutrient Database:** [https://www.ars.usda.gov/nutrient-data](https://www.ars.usda.gov/nutrient-data)

**National Organic Program:** [https://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexIE.htm](https://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexIE.htm)

### Food Safety Resources

**Food Safety on the Farm: An Overview of Good Agricultural Practices:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FS135](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FS135)

**The Food Safety Modernization Act and the FDA Facility Registration Program:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FS231](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FS231)

**UF/IFAS Food Safety:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_food_safety/](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_food_safety/)

**Good Agricultural Practices Training:** [http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/](http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/)

**CDC: Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases:** [https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dfwed/](https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dfwed/)

**FDA: US Food and Drug Administration:** [https://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/fsma/default.htm](https://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/fsma/default.htm)

### Fumigation

**Maximizing the Efficacy of Soil Fumigant Applications for Raised-Bed Plasticulture Systems in Florida:** [https://journals.flvc.org/edis/article/view/118553](https://journals.flvc.org/edis/article/view/118553)
Pesticide Safety


Pesticide Safety: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CV108

Interpreting PPE Statements on Pesticide Labels: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/PI137

Honeybees and Pesticides: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN1027

Pest Management

Vegetable IPM. Integrated Disease Management for Vegetable Crops: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/PP111

Florida Nematode Management Guide: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/nematode_management

Weed Management: https://journals.flvc.org/edis/article/view/115700

Insects in Vegetables: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_pest_insects