

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:

1. *Bitter Melon—an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida.*
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1271>
2. *Bok Choy, an Asian Leafy Green Vegetable Emerging in Florida.* <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1337>
3. *Chayote—a Potential Vegetable Crop for Florida.*
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1454>
4. *Chinese Mustard Cultivation Guide for Florida.*
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1402>
5. *Daikon Radish Cultivation Guide for Florida.*
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1370>

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6. *Fingered Citron—A Fragrant, Ornamental Citrus Tree for Florida*. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1427>
7. *Florida Cultivation Guide for Malabar Spinach*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1371>
8. *Goji Berry—a Novel Nutraceutical “Superfruit” for Florida Master Gardeners*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1391>
9. *Leek Cultivation Guide for Florida*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1388>
10. *Long Bean—an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1268>
11. *Long Squash—an Asian Vegetable Expanding in Florida*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1272>
12. *Luffa—an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1285>
13. *Production Guide for Choy Sum—an Emerging Asian Vegetable in Florida*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1380>
14. *Production Guide of Vegetable Amaranth for Florida*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1407>
15. *Tong Hao—an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1276>
16. *Waterleaf, a Potential Leafy Vegetable for Florida*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1434>
17. *Yacon, a Potential Tuberous Crop for Florida*.
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1435>

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)
	Galangal	Galanga, galangale, laos, and blue ginger	Zingiberaceae	Unknown
	Ginger	Canton ginger, stem ginger, red ginger, ginger pop, Zingiber officinale, ginger ale, flavourer	Zingiberaceae	Unknown
	Lobok radish	Chinese radish	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Radish (Chapter 15)
	Turmeric	Western ginger	Zingiberaceae	Root crops (Chapter 15)
Corm	Indian taro	Dasheen, yautia, eddo and kalo, giant elephant ear	Araceae	Unknown
	Yacon	Peruvian ground apple	Asteraceae	Unknown
Leafy	A choy	Taiwanese lettuce	Asteraceae (Compositae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
	Callaloo	Callaloo, calaloo, calaloo, kallaloo, Xian choy, amaranth, taro, Xanthosoma	Amaranthus (Amaranthaceae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
	Long napa	Peking cabbage, celery cabbage	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Malabar spinach	Vine spinach, red vine spinach, climbing spinach, creeping spinach, buffalo spinach, Ceylon spinach	<i>Basella alba</i> (Basellaceae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
	Napa	Napa cabbage	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Shalihon	Xue li hong, mustard green	Asteraceae (Compositae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
	Shanghai bok choy	Bok choy, pak choi, bok choi, pok choy	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Taiwan cabbage	Taiwan flat cabbage, Li Sun cabbage, flathead cabbage	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Thai Basil	Chi neang vorng, anise basil, licorice basil	Lamiaceae	Unknown
	Tong Hao	Tahn ho, Shungiku, crown daisy, garland daisy, edible chrysanthemum, garland chrysanthemum, chrysanthemum greens	Asteraceae (Compositae)	Lettuce (Chapter 9)
	Tossa Jute	Jew's mallow, bush okra, nalta jute, jute mallow	Malvaceae	Unknown
	U choy	Yu choy, Chinese greens	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Vietnamese coriander	hot mint, Vietnamese cilantro, phak phai, Cambodian mint	Polygonaceae	Unknown
	Wawa choy	Baby Chinese cabbage	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage (Chapter 6)
	Flower	Gailon	Chinese broccoli (Kale)	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)
Fruit/pod	Chinese eggplant	Aubergine, brinjal	Solanum (Solanaceae)	Eggplant (Chapter 8)
	Fuzzy squash	Hairy gourd, fuzzy melon	Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber (Chapter 7)
	Indian eggplant	Brinjal	Solanum (Solanaceae)	Eggplant (Chapter 8)
	Kabocha	Japanese pumpkin, Kabocha squash, Kent pumpkin	Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber (Chapter 7)
	Lablab beans	Hyacinth bean, bonavist bean/pea, dolichos bean, seim bean, Indian bean, cluster bean	<i>Lablab purpureus</i> (Fabaceae)	Cluster bean (Chapter 11)
	Long bean, dark green	Asparagus bean, Chinese long bean, long-podded cowpea, yardlong bean	Fabaceae	Legume (Chapter 10)

Vegetable Type	Common Name	Other Names	Family Name	Related Crop Grown in Florida
	Long bean, white	Chinese long bean, haricot asperge, pea bean, dow gauk	Fabaceae	Legume (Chapter 10)
	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)
	Luffa	Loofa, Loofah, Chinese okra, angled loofah, dishcloth sponge	Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber (Chapter 7)
	Thai eggplant	Thai purple, Thai green, Thai yellow, Thai white	Solanum (Solanaceae)	Eggplant (Chapter 8)