September 6, 2014

Organic Growers School Harvest Conference

"Grow Year Round: Easy and Affordable Systems for Season Extension"
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Initial Questions:

• Level of experience in classroom
• Scale of gardening/production in classroom
• Want to extend season at home, work, or other production site
• In urban areas or rural/acreage
• Initial Burning Questions from workshop attendees
Why Extend Growing Season:

• Eat year round, grow year round
• Market demand (markets, co-op, chefs/restaurants) in winter and early summer
• Brighten your winter
• But … hard work March-November
• But … grow and live in Florida?…
What to plant September-October

**Leaves:**
- Mache
- Spinach
- Tatsoi
- Minutina
- Lettuce
- Arugula
- Mizuna
- Mustard

**Roots:**
- Beet
- Turnip
- Radish

See: http://www.fourseasonfarm.com/pdfs/garden_for_all_seasons.pdf
Season Extension Year-Round

- Focus now on fall, winter, early spring
- Season extension in summer:
  - greens
  - fruit
  - shade
Season Extension Infrastructure

- Coldframes
- Low tunnels
- Caterpillar tunnels
- Row covers
- High tunnels/Hoophouses
- Greenhouses
Mechanics, Infrastructure, Materials:

- Framework: Structure
- Bendable hoops
- Split bamboo
- Metal
- Wood
- Metal Conduit
- Steel
- Glazing: Materials
- Plastics, corrugated plastic, glass, row covers
Location, location, location

- Site Analysis, solar gain in morning
- Micro-climates
- Aspect
- Adjacent to stone or concrete
- Adjacent to homes: heat exchange and health
Cinder Block Coldframe
Wooden Cold Frames
Straw bale cold frame
“10 Reasons Why Low Tunnels Beat Cold Frames for Winter Gardening”

• Let the Sunshine In!
• A Few Meals Versus Many
• How Low Must You Grow
• Let Me Level With You
• For the Mechanically-Disinclined
• Winter's Over. Now What?
• A Reason For Every Season
• Excuse Me While I Vent
• Thar She Blows
• Saving Green While Growing Green

http://www.motherofahubbard.com/10-reasons-low-tunnels-are-better-than-cold-frames/
Low tunnels with floating row cover
Caterpillar Tunnel and Floating Row Covers
Hoop Houses / High Tunnels
Community Hoop House Project

http://www.samsva.org/?page_id=1347
Greenhouses
Other Considerations

- Thermal Mass
- Ventilation
- Size
- Orientation
- Economics
Scale, Geodesic Domes, and Hydroponics
Truly Living Well, Atlanta, GA
Integrated systems:

- Chickens in hoop houses. See Andy Lee and Pat Foreman's Chicken Tractor.
- Low tunnels in high tunnels. See Eliot Coleman.
- Heat in hoop houses/greenhouses (wood heat, propane, or composting)
- Using vertical space/stacking functions
- Shawn Jadrnicek, Clemson University.
- Sun rooms and adjacent to buildings.
Home Hoophouse
Photos from Friday 9/5/14
Resources:

- ATTRA: attra.ncat.org/
- National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service
- ATTRA Webinar - Hoop Houses For Extending Your Growing Season [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ-JAGKcup8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ-JAGKcup8)
- FarmTek: [http://www.farmtek.com/farm/supplies/cat1a;ft_high_tunnels_cold_frames.html](http://www.farmtek.com/farm/supplies/cat1a;ft_high_tunnels_cold_frames.html)
- Sunil Patel with Patchwork Urban Farms
- Fifth Season Gardens
- Reems Creek Nursery
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