

# Summary—Florida Greenhouse Vegetable Production Handbook, Vol 1<sup>1</sup>

G. J. Hochmuth<sup>2</sup>

It should be keenly apparent to the prospective greenhouse vegetable grower that some formidable difficulties exist. Greenhouse vegetable production involves much expense and a great amount of risk. During the decision process, the potential new grower must understand and decide if the risks are manageable.

The production of greenhouse vegetables involves dealing with specialty horticultural crops that have some exacting requirements. If the production phase of greenhouse vegetable culture can be characterized, it would certainly include the descriptors intensive, timely, managerial-dependent, detail specific, and expensive.

Greenhouse vegetable production, however, can potentially be a high-return enterprise. Along with the potential for high return, comes the potential for great losses because of the high level of risk involved with this enterprise. There are many factors that need to be thoroughly investigated prior to entering the business of greenhouse vegetables. Depending upon how well a greenhouse operator can identify and manage all of the variables, the operator may have a highly rewarding enterprise or a financially frustrating one. Hopefully, this publication will help keep the prospective grower from facing the latter option.

For growers who decide to pursue greenhouse construction and crop production, information on those topics is available in succeeding publications (volumes 2 and 3).

## More Information

For more information on greenhouse crop production, please visit our website at <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>.

For the other chapters in the Greenhouse Vegetable Production Handbook, see the documents listed below:

**Volume 1:** [Introduction](#) • [Financial Considerations](#) • [Pre-Construction Considerations](#) • [Crop Production](#) • [Considerations for Managing Greenhouse Pests](#) • [Summary](#)

**Volume 2:** [Physical Greenhouse Design Considerations](#) • [Production Systems](#) • [Other Design Information Resources](#)

**Volume 3:** [Preface](#) • [General Aspects of Plant Growth](#) • [Production Systems](#) • [Irrigation of Greenhouse Vegetables](#) • [Fertilizer Management for Greenhouse Vegetables](#) • [Production of Greenhouse Tomatoes](#) • [Greenhouse Cucumber Production](#) • [Greenhouse Nematode Management](#) • [Alternative Greenhouse Crops](#) • [Vegetable Insect Identification and Management](#)

1. This document is HS773, one of a series of the Horticultural Sciences Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date December 1990. Revised January 2001. Reviewed November 2018. Visit the EDIS website at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> for the currently supported version of this publication.

2. G. J. Hochmuth, professor emeritus, Department of Soil and Water Sciences, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611. The Florida Greenhouse Vegetable Production Handbook is edited by George Hochmuth, professor of Soil and Water Sciences, and R. C. Hochmuth, Extension agent IV, UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center—Suwannee Valley, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For more information on obtaining other UF/IFAS Extension publications, contact your county's UF/IFAS Extension office.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, UF/IFAS Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A & M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Nick T. Place, dean for UF/IFAS Extension.