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Review of the effects of physical factors in the environment on horticultural crops Other factors internal to plants Socioeconomic factors Classification of vegetable crops Vegetable production systems Review of the effects of physical factors in the environment on horticultural crops Temperature Light Precipitation Viriculture Biotic factors The factors that were lectured and discussed included: Abiotic factors. Weather and climate. Each horticultural crop has certain climatic requirements. Adverse weather conditions and climatic conditions cause stress. Components of weather and climate include: Temperature Temperature Affects All Physiological Activities by Controlling - Photosynthesis-Respiration- Enzymatic Activity- Organic Material Degradation- Microbial Growth and Development- Flowering- Pollen Viability- Fruit Set- Hormonal Balance- Rate of Maturation-Rate of senescence- Quality- Yield-Shelf life- Harvest duration- Vernalization of two-year-old-Seed germination- Root development- Water and nutrient absorption- Pest and disease occurrence Extreme temperatures - Frost damage at 0°C- Cooling damage 0 - 2 °C or lower , but above freezing. Light Photosynthesis uses light. Light intensity and duration are important for crop growth and development. Low light causes plants to be spindle, small leaves, bud leaves, poor pollination and poor fruit quality. The plants are different in light requirements. An example was given for horticultural crops. - Light affects pollen viability and fruit set.- Certain seeds require light to break dormant eg lettuce.- Some horticultural crops are sensitive to photoperiod. Examples were given.- Short dayplants bloom quickly as the days get shorter.- Long-day plants flourish when the days are longer.- Short days speed up piping in potatoes, root magnification in sweet potatoes.- Long days and high temperatures keep plants in endurance (phase) in Cucurbits. Light intensity and duration are important for crop growth and development: - Photosynthesis uses light - Low light causes plants to be long, and this (spindle), small leaves, bud leaves, poor pollination and poor fruit quality. - Photosynthesis is stopped at high light intensity depending on species. - The plants are different in lighting requirements. - Certain seeds require light and pause rest. - Some plants are sensitive to photo period or day length. - Short day plants bloom quickly as the days get shorter. - Long-day plants bloom when the days are longer. - Short days speed up the piping in potato, root magnification in sweet potatoes. - Long days and high temps keep plants in endurance (phase) in cucurbits. Precipitation - Water comprises more than 80% of the living plants that provide structural integrity for the plant.- Precipitation natural source of water.- Water is an important determinant of crop productivity and quality.- Required in large amounts for plant growth than any other of the growth factor.- Solvent for nutrients, minerals, etc.. - Water improves germination of seeds.- to establish transplanted plants.- Essential for faster establishment of the crop.- Important to facilitate the use and distribution of fertilizers and pesticides.- Provides protection in cold temp (frost).- Facilitates harvesting of underground crops in dry soil.- Cooling of the leaves during respiration.- All crops have moisture range where crop reaction is optimal. Examples were given.- Crop differs in their tolerance to continuous wet conditions.- Hydrophytes - aquatic. - Mesophytes - most common of terrestrial plants.- Xerophytes - can endure long period.- Root systems affect the amount of water uptake.. Negative aspects of precipitation - Waterlogging-Drought-StormsWind - A weak wind is needed to replenish cold oxide near the plant's surface. - The wind transports oxygen away from the plant. - Less wind, less evaporation, less water needs. - Wind can be a limiting factor in vegetable production, where strong winds (a world wind speed of 7.2 km/h) occur e.g. typhoons (wind speed of 60 km/h) - The use of lee belts (shelter belts) minimizes damage, a relatively slow wind. - Dusting plants - affects the speed of photosynthesis of coating photosynthesizing leaves and green stem. - Can blow away pests and diseases, thus carrying pests to or away from the crop. - May interfere with the operation of agricultural holdings, e.g. - May aid in pollination. Soil areas Horticultural crops are adapted to a wide range of soil types at times of special needs. Soil particulates include clay 0,002 mm or less, silt 0,05 to 0,002 mm and sand 0,05 mm or more. Aspects of soil fertility and soil pH were discussed. Organic and inorganic fertilisers as a source of nutrients were also discussed. Biotic factors - Insect pests- Bacteria- Fungi- Nematodes- Viruses- Weeds-Domestic and wild animalother factors internal to plants - Leaf structure- Chlorophyll content- Water conductive ability- Osmotic adjustment- Presence of strong drainsSocio-economic factors - Poor road network- Lack of credit facilities- Poor marketing systems- Poor training background- Lack of availability of input seeds, fertilizers, pesticides.- Insufficient information on prices of inputs and products. Classification of vegetable crops 1. Classification based on edible part a. Root vegetables (carrots, beetroot, radish)b. Tuber vegetables (Yam, Irish potato)c. Corm (Taro)d. Stem vegetable (Asparagus)e. Leaf vegetables (Lettuce, Amaranth)f. Pear vegetables (Onions, garlic)g. Fruit vegetables (Tomato, okra)h. Flower vegetables (Broccoli, Cauliflower). Seed vegetables (Berus, Peas) 2. Classification based on botany Examples are: a. Solanaceae b. Cucurbitaceae 3. Based on life cycle a. Annual (Amaranthus, Pumpkin)b. Biennials (Cabbage, Beetroot)c. Perennial (Chive, Asparagus) 4. Based on use a. Greensb. Salads 5. Based on climate adaptation a. Hot season crops (Okra, Pepper)b. Cool season crops (Cauliflower, Broccoli) 6. Based on origin a. vegetables (Cabbage, Tomato)b. Original vegetables (Amaranthus, Amaranthus). The consequences of each classification were discussed in the context of crop management. Vegetable production systems To expose participants to the various plant production systems. - Home garden, nutrition garden, community garden as source of food, nutrients. Market gardens- Processing garden- Gardening in trucks- Export gardens- Protected gardening- Horticultural Seed production garden- Vegetable Forcing Comment: The above items were intended to provide a perspective on the main practical uses of factors that would increase the production of horticultural crops. The aim was to develop an extended and in-depth understanding of the main factors in order to manipulate them in order to optimise vegetable production. Practical examples were given and discussed. Questions were requested and discussed. This part of EST1 was basically a lecture and seemed to be the most challenging to make camp/block expansion officers understand. Many practical examples of improved horticultural practices and integrated plant nutrition systems were given. The participants were very keen and appreciated these basic topics. Ratings & Reviews5Perfect product! I bought it because I'm a horticultural student. A must have for someone like me. 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It is a good effort and the revised and updated version of this book should prove very useful for students, teachers, researchers and growers to get the basic information about horticulture. Horticulture.

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