

Table 4. Footnotes used with vegetable crops.

250 Indicated fertilizer amounts, and the nutrients already in the soil, will satisfy the crop nutrient requirement for this cropping season. Fertilizer and water management are linked. Maximum fertilizer efficiency is achieved only with close attention to water management. Supply only enough irrigation water to satisfy crop requirements. Excess irrigation may result in leaching of N and K, creating possible plant deficiencies.

For subsurface irrigation, maintain a constant water table between 18 and 24 inches below the top of the bed.

On soils that have not been in vegetable production within the past 20 years, or where micronutrients are known to be deficient, apply 5 lb Mn, 3 lb Zn, 4 lb Fe, 3 lb Cu, and 1.5 lb B/A. Use soil testing to monitor micronutrient status every 2 years. When deciding about micronutrient applications, consider micronutrients added to the crop via fungicides. Some micronutrients can build up in the soil - avoid micronutrient toxicity.

251 For unmulched crops, fertilizer should be applied in split applications to reduce leaching losses and lessen danger of fertilizer burn. Broadcast all P_2O_5 and micronutrients, if any, and 25 to 50% of the N and K_2O in the bed at planting. Apply remaining N and K_2O in sidedress bands during the early part of the growing season.

In cold soil or following fumigation, apply 20 to 25% of the recommended N in the nitrate form.

Additional, supplemental sidedress applications of 30 lb N/A and 20 lb K_2O/A should be applied only if rainfall/irrigation amounts exceed 3 inches within a 3-day period or exceed 4 inches within a 7-day period. Avoid mechanical damage to plants when applying fertilizers.

252 The amounts suggested are generally sufficient for 2 or 3 crops in succession.

253 Where scab-resistant cultivars are grown, a pH between 6.0 and 6.5 is optimum. Where scab-susceptible cultivars are grown, the pH should be below 5.2 or above 7.2. Band all phosphorus. Apply 50 to 70% of N and 50% of K_2O at planting or at emergence and the remaining N and K at 35 to 40 days after planting.

350 Supply 25 to 50% of the N in the nitrate form if soils were treated with multi-purpose fumigants and if the soil temperature will stay below 60°F.

351 For mulched crops and subsurface irrigation, incorporate 10 to 20% of the N and K_2O , plus all of the P_2O_5 and micronutrients, if any, into the bed. Apply the remainder of the N and K_2O two to three inches deep in one or more bands about 6 to 10 inches from the plants.

For drip irrigation, incorporate 20% of the N and K_2O and all of the P_2O_5 and micronutrients, if any, into the bed. Apply the remainder of the N and K_2O periodically through drip tubes according to the rate of crop growth. Consult SS-VEC-45, "Fertilizer management for micro (drip) irrigated vegetable crops in Florida" for information on crop schedules.

For management systems where both seep and drip irrigation are being used, apply no more than 20% of the N and K_2O , plus all of the P_2O_5 and micronutrients, if any, into the bed. Apply the remainder of the N and K_2O periodically through drip tubes according to the rate of crop growth.

For overhead irrigation, incorporate all of the N, P_2O_5 , K_2O and micronutrients, if any, into the bed prior to installation of the plastic mulch.