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AVAILABLE from ANR

Guidance for vegetable growers

Two new full-color manuals of interest to vegetable growers are now available. *Cover Cropping for Vegetable Production* is perhaps the most comprehensive, science-based book on cover cropping available to growers, while the *Organic Vegetable Production Manual* provides detailed information on how to farm vegetables organically, addressing the essential topics for success in this highly competitive marketplace.

Cover crops are an important tool for vegetable growers to reduce soil erosion, filter water, enhance soil fertility and break the life cycles of plant pathogens and pests. The handbook describes primary cover crop species and includes photos, seeding details, winter vigor descriptions, nitrogen fixation and scavenging, weed suppression and nematode resistance.

Organic Vegetable Production is a valuable resource for established organic growers, and a must-read for those considering organic practices. Chapters cover a range of topics, including business and marketing plans, economic performance, soil fertility management, managing weeds and diseases, postharvest handling, and organic certification and registration in California.

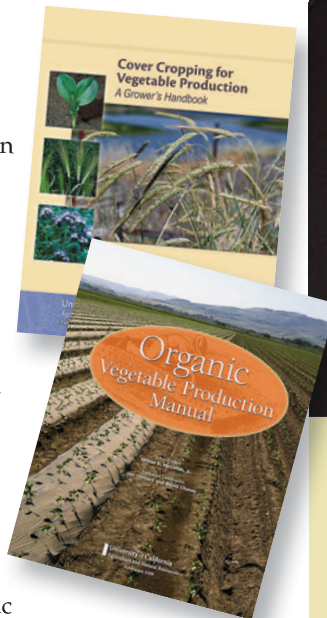
Cover Cropping for Vegetable Production, ANR Pub #3517, 90 pp, \$25
Organic Vegetable Production Manual, ANR Pub #3509, 86 pp, \$25

To order:

Call (800) 994-8849 or (510) 665-2195

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COMING UP in California Agriculture



Carlos Crisosto

Making a better kiwifruit

Kiwifruit is marketed worldwide. This globalization has created economic advantages for early and late harvests, when kiwifruit (shown, in a dehydrator) availability is low and prices are high. This situation has created incentives for early harvest or long-term storage, which can result in poor-quality kiwifruit in the market, thereby reducing repeat purchases and lowering overall demand. The current widely utilized quality measure for kiwifruit is based on soluble solids concentration at harvest, but it does not measure starch, inaccurately predicting the fruit's sugar concentration after postharvest ripening. A more reliable, fast and simple measure is needed to assure flavor and quality. In the next issue of *California Agriculture* journal, researchers report on the development of a new quality index based on dry matter concentrations, coupled with a consumer survey of local and imported kiwifruit marketed during the low-availability season (February-March).