

Suncoast Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Club

Meeting Notice

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2016
Where: Main Room Nokomis Community Center
234 Nippino Trail East, Nokomis, FL 34275
Agenda: 6:30 pm Chat and Tasting Table
7:00 pm Introduction and Presentation
8:30 pm Plant Raffle

Speaker: Xin Zhao, PhD
Associate Professor, Organic and Sustainable
Vegetable Production, Horticultural Sciences
Department, University of Florida

Topic: Vegetable Grafting

Grafting has been around for at least 4,000 years. Ancient Greek and Chinese gardeners knew that the right match could produce a plant greater than the sum of its parts – the roots of the first would make the leafy second more vigorous and fruitful.

Many of the woody plants in our gardens are grafted but the idea of grafting vegetables is relatively new in the U.S. The main benefit sought by grafting is to assist with managing soil-borne diseases.

Dr. Xin Zhao is an Associate Professor, Organic and Sustainable Vegetable Production, Horticultural Sciences Department at the University of Florida. Dr. Zhao has carried out research on vegetable grafting since 2008. In her research, Dr. Zhao has seen significant yield differences between grafted and non-grafted plants where disease pressure is high.

The overall goal of Dr. Zhao's research and education programs in the field of sustainable and organic vegetable production is to improve and integrate environmental stewardship, crop productivity, food quality, and farm profitability.

Xin's research involves both applied and fundamental studies on evaluating the feasibility of adopting and implementing innovative production methods for vegetable crops.

Dr. Zhao has written and published numerous articles on vegetable grafting. She has also lectured at many symposiums on the subject of vegetable grafting.