



Agricultural Systems

PHOTO: PIXABAY

Helping vegetable growers adapt to changing environment

Changing environmental conditions are creating unique challenges for vegetable growers across the United States. Insect pressure, viruses and prolonged drought continue to enhance the need for improved varieties and best management practices adaptable to a wide range of environmental stress. Through field research and education, growers are learning how to be more adaptable to these changing conditions.

Successful examples include:

- Onion trials, grown as part of **New Mexico** Agricultural Experiment Station research, evaluated carbon fixation, overall photosynthesis, season bulb weight yield and maturation date. Results revealed the genetics of each onion accession is a major factor in how well an onion will grow in the presence of environmental stress.
- Whiteflies continue to be a chronic threat to vegetable production in **Georgia** as well as several viruses affecting yellow and zucchini squash, pumpkin, cantaloupe and cucumber. Researchers found several alternatives to insecticides that could be used without compromising yields. Virus-resistant cultivars are currently being evaluated and a web-based risk production guide is available to growers.

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Prepared by the National Impacts Database Communications Subcommittee, supported by ESCOP, ECOP and USDA/NIFA.

02/2022