

Southeast Farmer Production Resources

Curated research, guides, and experts from the Organic Research Hub picked for producers in the Southeast region of the US.

Organic Research Hub

The Organic Research Hub was built by the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), a nonprofit that has supported organic farmers with science-based research and guidance for more than three decades, and was funded by the USDA. It exists because organic farmers kept asking for the same thing: one trustworthy place to find research-backed answers, instead of piecing them together from scattered websites and forums. Today, the Hub brings all of that research together into a single, free, searchable library, so you can spend less time hunting for answers and more time using them.



See all resources and a directory of organic experts curated for the Southeast region at hub.ofrf.org/regions/southeast.



Featured Resources for the Southeast Region:

The Southeast region includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and the US Virgin Islands.

Research Summaries



Mineral Amendments Benefit Soil Moisture but Not Nutrient Cycling or Crop Productivity in a Florida Organic Vegetable System Established on a Sandy Soil

Soil amendments may be particularly important in organic vegetable cropping systems in the Southeastern U.S., given the size of the vegetable industry, the growth of the organic sector, and the sandiness of coastal soils. This **Florida study** evaluated the effects of two mineral soil amendments on soil health properties and vegetable crop yield over two years.



Potential Alternatives to Spinosad as the Killing Agent Mixed with Two Attractant Products in Attract-and-Kill Formulations Used to Manage the Spotted-Wing Drosophila

Spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) is a major economic pest of fruit and berry crops, and organic producers have limited management options. **This study, conducted in Florida and Georgia,** tested different combinations of gel attractants and organically approved insecticides (an 'attract-and-kill' tactic) for their efficacy in protecting blueberries against SWD.

Tool



Organic Pest Control Products Finder

This tool, developed by the **Carolina Farm Stewardship Association**, helps growers **find organic pest control products**, such as Bt, Copper, Hydrogen peroxide, insecticidal soap, NEEM, Pyrethrum, Spinosad, and Surround, and which suppliers have them. The tool includes efficacy data from Cornell's Resource Guide for Organic Insect and Disease Management guidebook, as well as information on restrictions on OMRI-approved inputs.



Organic Cool-Season Vegetable Crop Rotations for the Southeast

This University of Georgia publication explains how to design **effective organic crop rotations for cool-season vegetables in the Southeast** by integrating cash crops with warm-season cover crops to improve soil fertility, manage pests, and enhance overall productivity. It provides practical guidance on selecting crop sequences, timing plantings, and using diverse plant families to build soil health, break pest cycles, and meet market demand.



North Carolina Organic Commodities Production Guide: Marketing Organic Grain Crops and Budgets

This chapter from the **North Carolina Organic Commodities Production Guide** addresses the unique challenges and strategies involved in **marketing organic grain crops in North Carolina**. It provides guidance on developing a marketing plan, identifying buyers, understanding food-grade versus livestock-feed markets, managing grain storage and quality, and exploring alternative marketing approaches — including direct marketing to organic livestock producers, value-added processing, and cooperative marketing.



Pest Exclusion Systems for Pest Management in Vegetable Production Across the Southeast

The guide explores **pest management across the Southeast** using Integrated Pest Management (IPM), High Tunnel Pest Exclusion (HTPE) systems, and shade cloths to effectively reduce pest pressure in vegetable production.

OFRF Research Grant Report



Companion Plantings for Organic Management of a New Invasive Brassica Pest

This project evaluated intercropping, trap cropping, and biological control to **manage the invasive yellow-margined leaf beetle (*Microtheca ochroloma*) on Southeastern organic leafy brassica greens**, aiming to reduce pest damage and reliance on pesticides. Lemongrass and tomato companion plants helped reduce herbivore populations on turnip greens, whereas basil and marigold attracted more pests than monocultures. Predatory insect presence was tied more to prey availability than companion species. Additionally, mizuna proved to be a highly preferred *M. ochroloma* host over other Brassica napa crops, making it an effective trap crop if pest spillover is controlled.

Webinars/Videos



Organic Farming and Certification Considerations for Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Farmers

Discover what it takes to **achieve organic certification in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands**, hearing directly from a panel of experienced farmers about their certification journeys and lessons learned.



Organic Practices for Citrus & Avocado Growers: Pest & Soil Management

Growing **organic citrus and avocados** requires a strategic approach to soil health, irrigation, and pest management—especially in subtropical coastal regions. This workshop covers best organic practices to maintain tree health while reducing the risk of pests and diseases.

FIND AN ORGANIC FARMING EXPERT NEAR YOU

Connect with 24+ verified Extension agents and researchers across all nine states in the Southeast — search by name, state, or an interactive map. The directory is growing regularly.

