

OLERICULTURE
Horticulture 320 – (UI PISc 451/551)
TERM PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Fall 2014

Introduction

Understanding how to research a crop is essential to planning a vegetable production enterprise. While many of the mainstream crops have horde of information readily available, there may come a time in your careers or lives that you want to experiment with, or even produce on a grander scale, a lesser-known, or novel, crop.

As such, this assignment will give you an opportunity to delve deeply into a minor vegetable crop of your choosing, and assemble, effectively, a fact sheet for yourself and your classmates. Additionally, you will prepare and deliver a brief presentation to introduce the class to the crop you will research.

Minor Vegetable Crops

For the sake of this assignment, we will consider a vegetable crop to be minor if it is not listed on Washington’s most recent Top Forty Agricultural Commodities list (see References). The following, inexhaustive, list includes minor vegetable crops you might consider:

Amaranth	<i>Amarathus tricolor</i>	Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
Cardoon	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Peanut	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i>
Chervil	<i>Anthriscus cerefolium</i>	Rhubarb	<i>Rheum rhaponticum</i>
Choyote	<i>Sechium edule</i>	Rutabaga	<i>Brassica campestris</i>
Cowpea	<i>Vigna sinensis</i>	Salsify	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Seakale	<i>Crambe maritima</i>
Gherkin	<i>Cucumis anguira</i>	Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Ground Cherry	<i>Physalis pubescens</i>	Swiss chard	<i>Beta vulgaris var. cicla</i>
Martynia	<i>Proboscidea lousianica</i>	Taro	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>
Okra	<i>Hibiscus esculentus</i>	Watercress	<i>Rorippa nasturtium</i>

Add to this list any other plant that fits the description of a vegetable “herbaceous plant grown for its edible part(s), usually eaten as part of a meal”, or any culinary or medicinal herb, and your choice will likely be approved.

Content

To guide your research and the preparation of your term paper, the following list outlines the content that you will be expected to present for your selected minor vegetable [or medicinal] crop.

1. Botanical classification/taxonomy
 - a. Family, genus, species, [variety, if appropriate]
 - b. Related species/crops
2. Use and importance
 - a. Center of origin
 - b. Story of domestication and early uses
 - i. What cultures have historically used it and how
 - c. Current uses [and where it is grown/used]
 - i. Culinary and/or medicinal
 - d. Economic and cultural importance
3. Production [geared to a Washington climate]
 - a. Propagation
 - b. Production
 - c. Disease and pest issues
 - d. Disease and pest control
 - e. Harvest
 - f. Post-harvest handling
4. Marketing and financial implications
 - a. Potential marketing channels
 - b. Enterprise budget for production [somewhere, be specific] in Washington
5. Recipes [OPTIONAL]

Recognizing that many of the minor vegetable crops out there are not conducive to production in Washington, consider opportunities for specialized production systems, greenhouses, hoop houses, shade houses, etc. Do not give up on your crop because it should not grow well in Washington, get creative and find a way. Then tell us about it.

Your enterprise budget should be included as a table, and inserted between your references and any figures you have included. I recognize that many minor crops will not have existing templates available. If that is the case for your crop, please find something that is cultivated in a similar manner and make reasonable adjustments. I expect your estimates to be as accurate as possible and will be checking on seed prices, among other relevant expenses, to ensure that you made the effort.

Written Report Format

Your written term paper should be a minimum of six (6) pages and must not exceed ten (10) pages. Text is to be in a common, readable font (Times New Roman, Arial, etc.; and not a monospaced font like Courier), 12 pt. size. You must include references and may include up to four (4) figures at the end of your report; references and figures are not included in your page count. Please follow the APA Citation Style (see References) for in-line citations and your reference list. Figures should be referenced in the text and presented after the references at the end of the report.

As college students, you should be able to write at an advanced reading level. As such, I would like for you to analyze your written term paper for readability. Microsoft Word has this functionality built-in, but it must be activated (see References). I expect that an excellent paper will have fewer than 20% passive sentences, a Flesch Reading Ease score above 50, and a Flesch-Kincaid Grade level above 10. Keep in mind that these scores do not assure that your paper is good, but a good paper will have scores along these lines. I would like for you to submit those three scores with your written report.

Oral Presentation

Your oral presentation should reflect the key points contained in your written report. In 5 – 8 minutes, you cannot possibly deliver all of the information, so boil it down to the most important pieces. You should still cover all of the points in the outline above, just with far less detail.

Your presentation must be accompanied by an M.S. Powerpoint slideshow consisting of exactly six (6) slides. The first slide will be your title slide and must state your name, the name of the course, and the minor crop you are presenting, you may embellish as you see fit as long as those elements are included.

The remaining five (5) slides will contain the content of your presentation. There are no hard and fast rules about what must be contained in these slides but they should support the material you are presenting orally without being a distraction. A link below has been added for tips on good slideshow presentations. The only rule that will be enforced is that all images, figures, or other media that you did not generate yourself must be attributed to the proper source.

Submission/Deadlines

There are four (4) deadlines associated with this assignment.

Monday 10/6, at the start of class:

You must select your minor vegetable crop and have it approved at or before this time.

Monday 10/20, at the start of class:

You will turn in a single sheet of paper outlining your written term paper.

Wednesday 11/19, by 12:00 pm (noon):

You will email to jeremy.cowan@wsu.edu an M.S. Word (preferably) or PDF version of your written term paper. This is the only submittal required. If you have a problem emailing your report, please let me know in advance of the deadline.

Monday 12/1, at the start of class:

You will email or provide on a USB thumb drive an M.S. Powerpoint (.ppt or .pptx) file containing your minor vegetable crop presentation. A schedule for the date and order of presentations will be handed out during this class session.

Late assignments **will be penalized** one (1) point (that is a class point) for each calendar day after the deadline.

Grading

Term Paper Outline: Since there is already an outline of the report above, I expect you to have inserted specific information in place of at least five (5) of the broad categories (e.g., instead of “2.a. Center of origin”, you should have “2.a. Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan” if your crop were garlic) to show that you are making progress. You will receive one (1) point for each category replaced with specific information, up to five (5) total points. This SHOULD be the easiest five (5) points you receive in this class, and I fully expect everyone to get them.

Written Term Paper: Points for your final written term paper will be assigned as follows.

Category	Points
Overall format (page count, font, spacing, attention to instructions, etc.)	2
Spelling, grammar, and punctuation	5
Content (completeness, accuracy, presentation)	20
References (completeness, accuracy, formatting)	5
Discretionary points (see below)	3
TOTAL	35
Recipes (see below)	3 bonus points

Discretionary points are yours to lose. Discretionary points will be reduced for excessive use of quotations, excessive use of colloquialisms, jargon, nonsensical language (“LOL”, etc), and such. If you take this assignment seriously, you will not have to worry about losing discretionary points.

Recipe(s) [is/are] optional. There are three (3) bonus points available for including at least one recipe. Including a recipe will earn you all three (3) points; however, those points will be reduced if the recipe is missing either ingredients or instructions, or the instructions are unclear. Since term paper points are being given as class points, these bonus points could help a poor exam or term paper grade.

Oral presentation: Points for your final oral presentation will be assigned as follows.

Category	Points
Title slide (contains necessary elements)	2
Content slides (support oral presentation w/out distraction)	5
Content (completeness, accuracy, presentation)	15 – 20
Oral presentation (preparedness, grasp of material, time management)	5 – 10
Discretionary points (see below)	3
TOTAL	35

The range of points available for content and oral presentation are up to you. By default, content will be worth fifteen (15) and oral presentation ten (10) points. However, if you are concerned that a fear of public speaking, or something like that, may appear like a lack of preparedness, you

can elect to have the points possible shifted to twenty (20) and five (5), respectively. This means that your content better be complete, accurate, and well-organized!

Discretionary points, again, are yours to lose. Discretionary points will be reduced for distracting behavior or inappropriate comments, excessive use of verbal crutches (“ah”, “um”, “you know”, etc.), colloquialisms, jargon, nonsensical language (“LOL”, etc), and such. If you take this assignment seriously, you will not have to worry about losing discretionary points.

Academic Integrity

The Washington Administrative Code defines plagiarism as:

“Presenting the information, ideas, or phrasing of another person as the student's own work without proper acknowledgment of the source. This includes submitting a commercially prepared paper or research project or submitting for academic credit any work done by someone else. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.”

WSU expects all students to behave in a manner consistent with its high standards of scholarship and conduct. University instructors have the authority to intervene in all situations where students are suspected of academic dishonesty. In such instances, responsible instructors retain the authority to assign grades to students considering, from an academic standpoint, the nature of the student action. More information regarding responding to academic integrity violations can be found at <http://academicintegrity.wsu.edu/>. Feel free to contact the Office of Student Standards and Accountability (509-335-4532) if you would like more specific information about the process. Writing Programs (509-335-7959) can assist with proactive assignment design that minimizes intentional or unintentional academic dishonesty.

If you are unsure about whether your presentation of material in either your written or oral reports might constitute plagiarism, please come talk to me. It is a serious matter, so please do not blow it off.

Resources

<http://agr.wa.gov/AgInWa/docs/TopFortyAgCommodities2010-2012.pdf>

<https://www.library.cornell.edu/research/citation/apa>

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word-help/test-your-document-s-readability-HP010148506.aspx>

<https://www.udemy.com/blog/best-powerpoint-presentations/>