

Plasticulture '06 Best Paper Award

Congress organizers strive to offer the highest level of presentations by researchers, educators, and industry representatives. The Society recognizes authors who are judged as having prepared the highest quality paper by the presentation of the Best Paper Award.



The Best Paper Award was presented by Dr. Anu Rangarajan, Chair Past Presidents Committee, to Robert C. Hochmuth, a multi-county extension agent with the University of Florida, located at the North Florida Research and Education Center – Suwannee Valley. Co-authors of the paper were G. J. Hochmuth, E.H. Simonne, D. W. Studstill, J.H. Chandler and A.B. Tyree.

Robert C. Hochmuth

Paper Title: “Florida Extension Programs Help Vegetable Growers Using Plasticulture To Improve Water and Nutrient Management”

Bob Hochmuth is a Multi-County Extension Agent with the University of Florida. He is located at the North Florida Research and Education Center - Suwannee Valley. In his position he supports the commercial vegetable extension programs in nine counties in the Suwannee Valley area near Live Oak, Florida. The overall responsibility is the development and implementation of educational programs for commercial vegetable producers that will increase their knowledge of production of vegetables, incorporating principles of efficiencies, profitability, and environmental awareness.

Bob's areas of specialization include: Agricultural Productivity and Education; Crop Growth, Improvement, Nutrition, and Production; General Horticulture; IPM; Irrigation; Methyl Bromide Alternatives; Soil Fertility - Irrigation and Plant Nutrition; Sustainable Agriculture; Plasticulture; Alternative Crops; Hydroponics; Small Farms; Organic Farming; Drip Irrigation; Greenhouse Crops; and Vegetable Production.

In addition to the research reported in his award winning paper, Bob's current projects include: alternative vegetable crops, hydroponics, methyl bromide alternatives, and variety evaluations. He received both his B.S. and M.S from the University of Maryland.