

DATE
September 19,
2007

Agri-Plastic Report

American Society for Plasticulture



A Member Service of the American Society for Plasticulture

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Pages From The Past (*American Vegetable Grower*, 100th Anniversary Features, Aug. '07). "Raise Your Yield: USE BLACK PLASTIC" was featured in the March 1958 edition of *American Vegetable Grower*. "Michigan grower increases yield from his melon crop by over 200 bushels per acre with polyethylene" is the sub-head of this 1958 article. You can see this feature at

http://www.americanvegetablegrower.com/100_anniversary/200708_pages.html.

A 2007 Perspective on Plasticulture is another feature of the *American Vegetable Grower* 100th Anniversary. Penn State's Mike Orzolek writes, "The initial evaluations of plastic mulch (polyethylene film) for the production of vegetables in the 1960s produced some dramatic results that would forever change the face of vegetable and small fruit production in the U.S. The use of raised beds, plastic mulch, and drip irrigation (plasticulture) has increased 10% per year in the last 10 years in this country." View this feature at

http://www.americanvegetablegrower.com/100_anniversary/200708_view.html.

Floating Greenhouse Models Efficient, Clean Growth (*Landscape Online*, Sept. 11, '07). "The NYC touring Science Barge, powered by solar, wind, and biofuels, is basically a floating greenhouse growing veggies via hydroponics (no soil, but water infused with nutrients) and irrigated by rainwater and purified river water. . . . The New York Sun Works Center for Sustainable Engineering, an environmental nonprofit organization, has designed and built a Science Barge to demonstrate you don't need land to grow food for urban centers. . . . The designers want to expand the idea to the city rooftops, particularly at schools, because kids need fresh vegetables and because the greenhouse makes a great science lab." Read the complete article at [Floating Greenhouse](#).

Tree Irrigation: Water Where Roots Need It (*Landscape Online*, July '07). "Trees' irrigation requirements are very different than those of turfgrass, shrubs and flowering plants. Trees need deep watering, and are much better suited to drip irrigation than more shallow-rooted plants. . . . Irrigation systems for trees should be on separate zones from other vegetation in the landscape. If not, they are usually under-watered because they require a slower, deeper watering. Turf, shrubs and groundcovers have individual watering needs that must be addressed as well. Selection of the right controller is as important as the overall irrigation design. Scheduling point source drip irrigation water management is not addressed often enough. Developing a drip irrigation schedule for point source drip irrigation, like any calculated irrigation schedule it is just a starting point. True water management is monitoring the plants health and soil moisture." This article ends with a section on "Avoiding The 'Seven Deadly Sins' of Drip Irrigation." Read the complete article at [Tree Irrigation: Water Where Roots Need It](#).

Growing Cut Flowers Year Round (*Greenhouse Product News*, Aug. '07). "Obviously, the best and most common way to produce cut flowers year round is in a fully heated greenhouse. Smaller flower growers often don't want to invest in these structures, so they use other options: Hoopouses, high tunnels and cold frames are all what grower Bob Ambrose, Ridgeview Acres Farm, Stahlstown, Pa., calls 'protected growing structures.' They have no heat or some supplemental heat, rarely any cooling system other than roll-up sides, and are short or tall depending on the crop. . . . Many growers agree. . . . greenhouses, hoopouses and high tunnels offer a way to compete with imported cuts. . . . U.S. cut flower growers are still in the game, with many choosing to extend their seasons into late fall or early spring, or even year round."

The 34th National Agricultural Plastics Congress
March 7 – 10, 2008 / Tampa, Florida

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