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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

24AG201-CROP PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

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IMPORTANT GROUPS OF HORTICULTURE CROPS IN TAMILNADU

In Tamil Nadu, horticultural crops encompass a diverse range including vegetable crops, fruit crops, and flower crops, each with specific cultivation practices tailored to local agro-climatic conditions. Here's a brief overview of cultivation practices for representatives of each group:

Vegetable Crops:

1. **Tomato (Solanum lycopersicum):**
    - **Site Selection:** Well-drained soil with good sunlight.
    - **Planting:** Transplanting seedlings at appropriate spacing.
    - **Irrigation:** Regular watering to maintain soil moisture.
    - **Nutrient Management:** Balanced fertilization with emphasis on potassium and phosphorus.
    - **Pest Management:** Integrated pest management (IPM) for diseases like blight and pests like aphids.
    - **Harvesting:** Picking when fruits are ripe, avoiding over-ripening on plants.
2. **Brinjal (Solanum melongena):**
    - **Soil Preparation:** Deep tilling to improve soil structure.
    - **Planting:** Direct seeding or transplanting in well-prepared beds.
    - **Water Management:** Moderate irrigation to prevent waterlogging.
    - **Fertilization:** Organic mulching and balanced fertilization.
    - **Pest and Disease Control:** Monitoring for pests like fruit borers and diseases like leaf spot.
    - **Harvesting:** Harvesting fruits at glossy stage before seeds mature.

Fruit Crops:

1. **Mango (Mangifera indica):**
    - **Site Selection:** Sunny locations with good air circulation.
    - **Planting:** Grafted saplings or seedlings in well-drained soil.
    - **Pruning:** Structural pruning to improve yield and shape.
    - **Water Management:** Regular irrigation during flowering and fruit development.
    - **Nutrient Requirements:** Balanced fertilization with emphasis on potassium during fruiting.
    - **Pest and Disease Management:** IPM for pests like fruit flies and diseases like anthracnose.
    - **Harvesting:** Picking fruits when mature, based on variety and ripening characteristics.
2. **Banana (Musa spp.):**
    - **Land Preparation:** Deep plowing and leveling for drainage.
    - **Propagation:** Suckers or tissue-cultured plants for uniformity.
    - **Spacing:** Wide spacing for airflow and light penetration.
    - **Irrigation:** Regular watering to maintain soil moisture.
    - **Fertilization:** Organic manure application and balanced nutrient supply.
    - **Pest Control:** IPM for pests like nematodes and diseases like Panama wilt.
    - **Harvesting:** Cutting bunches when fingers are full, followed by ripening in controlled conditions.

Flower Crops:

1. **Rose (Rosa spp.):**
    - **Site Selection:** Well-drained soil with pH around 6.5.
    - **Planting:** Grafted plants or cuttings in raised beds.
    - **Water Management:** Regular watering without waterlogging.
    - **Nutrient Management:** Balanced fertilization with emphasis on phosphorus.
    - **Pest and Disease Control:** IPM for pests like aphids and diseases like powdery mildew.
    - **Pruning:** Regular pruning to stimulate new growth and flowering.
    - **Harvesting:** Picking flowers when buds are tight, early in the morning.

2. **Marigold (Tagetes spp.):**
    - **Soil Preparation:** Loamy soil with good drainage.
    - **Propagation:** Direct seeding or transplanting in rows.
    - **Watering:** Moderate irrigation to keep soil moist but not waterlogged.
    - **Fertilization:** Balanced fertilization with emphasis on nitrogen.
    - **Pest Management:** IPM for pests like spider mites and aphids.
    - **Harvesting:** Cutting flowers when fully open, during cool parts of the day.