

Greenhouse Crop Production for Beginning Farmers

Short Course

March 7-8 (Wednesday-Thursday)

Day 1: Lectures and a visit to the NJ EcoComplex greenhouse facility

Day 2: Greenhouse Tours

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Course Summary:

We receive frequent calls from people who are considering starting a farm for a variety of reasons. Some see it as a viable way to make a living and provide for their families, while others want to take up farming after retirement. While operating a greenhouse is more expensive than growing crops in the field, it provides a way to grow year-round, and therefore has the potential to provide a more steady income. By protecting a crop from most weather conditions, higher yields are achievable, but managing the production system and its environment requires extensive knowledge and constant attention to detail. This short course is designed to introduce beginning farmers to greenhouse crop production and will cover topics including production systems, pests and diseases, fertigation, economics and marketing. Participants will receive classroom instruction from experts and have an option to visit several greenhouse operations around New Jersey.

Student Preparation:

As course organizers, we encourage all participants to come prepared to the short course by viewing as many video as possible available at this site (YouTube channel titled: 'Horticultural Engineering Technology'): https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsD2oKzVv1B_GtummyKKE8LA

After viewing the videos, please write down any questions you may have and bring your questions to the short course. You may also want to take a look at this website: <http://farmmgmt.rutgers.edu/>