2015 Spring Short Course to Include New Demonstrations on Grafting, Fertigation
https://ag.arizona.edu/ceac/Spring-Short-Course

The 2015 Spring Crop Production & Engineering Design Short Course, from March 22–27, will include two new demonstrations this year as a part of the CEAC workshop day on Thursday March 26th. A Vegetable Grafting demonstration will be given by Dr. Chieri Kubota, which will highlight strategies and information to successfully graft plants. There will also be a fertigation demonstration that will be given by HortiMax, which will highlight a state of the art fertigation system. This presentation will include operations and benefits about the system, and show attendees how to work such a system.

The full short course from March 23-26, features 3 full days of lecture on all things CEA, followed by a hands-on workshop day at the Controlled Environment Agriculture Center (CEAC). Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with researchers and industry professionals throughout the course.

There is also an alternate Webcast attendance option, where students can watch live lectures from wherever they may be with a secure internet connection. Webcast attendees receive many of the same benefits as full course attendees such as live streaming of lectures and the ability to ask real-time questions to the lecturers. Course Lectures are accessible from password protected online database for a minimum of 2 months after the conclusion of the course, where all attendees can watch the lectures at their convenience. However, Webcast attendees are not able to attend the hands-on workshops and get the full experience with industry professionals. Please ask about alternative attendance options if you can’t make it to Tucson for the entire course.

If you are interested in attending the 2015 Spring Short Course, more information such as registration and course schedule can be found on our website at https://ag.arizona.edu/ceac/Spring-Short-Course or contact Aaron Tevik by email at atevik@cals.arizona.edu or by phone at (520) 626-9566.

Drs. Jensen, Kubota Featured in Growing Produce

CEAC Professor’s Merle Jensen and Chieri Kubota shared some of their expertise on various CEA topics with Growing Produce Magazine, a Meister Media publication. Dr. Jensen wrote the article “Factors to Consider for Successful Production in Controlled Environments,” which is a list that he has compiled over his 50+ year career in CEA as critical factors to successful hydroponic crop production in a controlled environment. Part 2 of this list will be resealed by Growing Produce at the end of January.

In an article titled “How to be Successful Using Grafted Plants,” Dr. Kubota explains the benefits and potential problems with vegetable grafting and gives advice to people looking to start grafting. For those interested in a grafting demonstration, Dr. Kubota will be giving a demonstration at the Short Course in March.

2015 Tomato Intensive Included International Flare

The 5th annual CEAC Tomato Intensive Course concluded the largest class ever on January 9th. There were 27 students attending the course, coming as far as Hawaii, New York, Florida, and even Argentina. Please check out a great article featured on HoriDaily.com about the 2015 Tomato Intensive at: http://www.hortidaily.com/article/14315/US-(AZ)-International-participation-at-CEAC-short-course
Other Upcoming Conferences Involving CEA

February 20th, 2015 – The University of Arizona - CEAC - Tucson, AZ - (Only Web Registration Still Available)
The objective of this SCRI LED research group is to enable specialty-crop growers working in protected environments to successfully transition from traditional horticultural lighting sources to LED technologies. The symposium will provide SCRI LED project members and other nationally recognized research groups the opportunity to bring the latest information, understanding, and assessments of the use of LEDs in horticulture through oral presentations. The three major topics covered in this symposium will be Plant responses under sole-source LED lighting, Plant responses under supplemental/photoperiodic LED lighting in greenhouses, and LED technology development, evaluation, and economics. More information can be found at http://leds.hrt.msu.edu/meeting/ or by emailing Dr. Chieri Kubota at ckubota@email.arizona.edu.

-Greenhouse Tomato Short Course
March 3 - 4, 2015 – Mississippi State University - Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond, MS
If you are a grower of greenhouse tomatoes, or if you have interest in growing this crop, mark your calendar now for the 25th Annual Greenhouse Tomato Short Course. Participating in this program will be the best way to learn all about producing greenhouse tomatoes. Special topics this year will be components of the greenhouse system, greenhouse design and engineering, alternative heating options, marketing, budget for greenhouse growers, updates on the latest research, plant nutrition, alternative crops, water sanitation, and of course the pest management workshop, which will include physiological disorders, diagnosing plant problems, plant disease identification and control, and pest management. For further information visit http://greenhousedatomatosc.com/, or send email to Dr. Rick Snyder at Rick.Snyder@msstate.edu.

-Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business
March 20 - 21, 2015 – UF/IFAS Small Farms Academy - Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, Live Oak, FL
The short course is being offered in response to the tremendous increase in demand for information on using hydroponics and controlled growing systems to provide high quality locally grown products for local markets. The short course is perfect for those considering the venture or who have recently started a hydroponic business. This course was offered from 2009 to 2014, and was very well received by nearly 70 attendees each year. The topics to be covered include: planning the business and developing a marketing strategy, growing transplants, selecting hydroponic systems, soilless media choices, irrigation and fertilizer, managing pests, and the production of several crops from microgreens to herbs to cut flowers to tomatoes. For more info visit http://www.eventbrite.com/e/starting-a-successful-hydroponic-business-registration-12569847753.

-International Congress on Controlled Environment Agriculture
May 20 - 22, 2015 – Sheraton Convention Center, Panama City, Panama
The International Congress on Controlled Environment Agriculture (ICCEA 2015) is targeted to all people involved in urban agriculture, indoor food production, vertical farming, greenhouse production or hydroponic farming. The congress offers an opportunity to learn from some of the most innovative minds in the industry Speakers will focus on the skills and knowledge needed to finance, design and operate a successful and innovative farm. The event will focus on the six main areas of Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA); Managing the Environment, Managing Nutrient Solutions, Managing your Growing Systems, Managing Light, Managing Water and Managing Energy. The main speaker for the conference is Professor Toyoki Kozai from the Chiba University. For more information, please visit the ICCEA Website at: http://www.icceapanama.org/.

-CropKing Grower’s School
February 20-21 in Charleston, SC – March 19-20 in Lodi, OH – April 16-17 in Lodi, OH
The CropKing Grower Workshop is a two day program that incorporates teaching and demonstration to provide participants a more clear understanding of controlled environment vegetable production systems. More information can be found at https://www.cropking.com/catalog/grower's-school.

September 15-17, 2015 – Pittsburgh, PA