



Sir Arthur Lewis Community College
Division of Agriculture



2004/2005 Associate Degree Programme
End of Semester I Examination

Course: Horticultural Crops Agronomy – HCA204
Duration: 2 ½ hours

Date: 8 December, 2004

Answer Any Five (5) Questions

1. (a) Discuss three ways how vegetable production is of economic significance to St. Lucia? (9 marks)
- (b) State three ways vegetables can be classified, giving an example of each way. (6 marks).
- (c) Explain how environmental factors may affect the distribution of vegetable crops. (5 marks)
2. (a) Explain the importance of preparing a cropping schedule. (5 marks)
- (b) Prepare a cropping schedule for a named crop. State the resources needed to grow the crop successfully. (10 marks)
- (c) Discuss the importance of post harvest-technology in vegetables production. (5marks)
3. Bananas, it is believed, can still contribute to the economy of St. Lucia.
 - (a) Discuss three factors you think can help in the resuscitation of the banana industry. (6 marks)
 - (b) Students from a Secondary School are visiting the College Farm. Give them an overview of how bananas are produced (planting to harvesting). (8 marks)
 - (c) Discuss three ways farmers may ensure that quality bananas are produced. (6 marks)

4. Weed control is critical to successful vegetable production:
- (a) Explain how weeds may be detrimental to vegetable crops. **(9 marks)**
 - (b) Discuss the merits and demerits of using chemical weed control versus cultural control. **(6 marks)**
 - (c) How does pest problems adversely affect vegetable crop production. **(5 marks)**
5. Land preparation is considered to be one of the most costly exercise in vegetable production. Discuss the stages and objectives of land preparation. **(20 marks)**
6. (a) Discuss flowering and pollination in avocado production and its influence on orchard planning and production programme. **(10 marks)**
- (b) Compare avocado and papaya production. **(10 marks)**
7. Discuss the agronomic and economic principles which guide the selection of crops in a rotation system. **(20 marks)**
8. (a) Construct a matrix to compare and contrast yam and dasheen production. **(10 marks)**
- (b) Based on the information produced, state which of the two would you prefer to grow and why? **(5 marks)**
- (c) Root crops seem less susceptible to pest and diseases compared to above ground vegetables. Explain why would you agree or disagree with that statement? **(5 marks)**

~~~~~End of Exam~~~~~

