University of Florida projects 2014-15

New Project Initiatives
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Manufacturing: Financial analysis

• Next steps: Ph.D. student Jan 2015
  – Key Performance Indicators for young plant production
  – Impact of training & lean processes
  – Investment analysis

Manufacturing: Training

Three levels
• Production staff
• New grower/team leader
• Experienced grower/Technical sales

Next steps:
• Inhouse training programs
• First online course for FRA group in November
Manufacturing: Mobile Information Technology

– Access knowledge in the greenhouse

– Back Pocket Grower mobile solution

– Next step: Work with you on opportunities to improve efficiency with mobile IT

Root Zone Management: Substrates and Quality Control

• QC protocols & comparison testing for propagation substrates
  – Recently tested 20 Ellepots
  – Posted protocols on Back Pocket Grower

• Next steps:
  – Expand existing QC procedures for peat/polymer substrates
  – FAQ problem-solving on Back Pocket Grower

Root zone management: Fertilizers & pH

• Next steps:
  – pH solubility charts
  – Plant species effects on pH
  – Edibles, hydroponics
  – Controlled release fertilizer with delayed release

Root zone: Water quality & treatment

• Next steps:
  – Revise online tools & outreach materials
  – Filters including activated carbon
  – Paclobutrazol remediation
  – Phytotoxicity of sanitizers
Root zone: Sensor-based irrigation

- Next steps:
  - Wireless soil moisture sensor network
  - Help growers trial the technology

New Crops

Next steps:
- Help growers wanting to produce container blueberries
- Other interest in edibles?

- Mayan series *Ruellia*

Activity: Mobile IT in the greenhouse

Over the next 15 minutes, share with your table:

a) How are you using mobile IT in your business? What apps or activities?

b) What is your wish list for greenhouse apps?