

Artichoke, Blackberry & Hops



Important Considerations

- Most alternative crops are **not well adapted** to Florida’s climatic conditions
- **Adaptive agronomic techniques** can help some crops overcome climatic challenges
- Select most **adaptable cultivars**
- Identify your **target market** first – wholesale, farm stand, U-pick, etc.
- Assess **market size** and determine an economically viable production scale



	Artichoke	Blackberry	Hops
Climatic challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of chill hours (most cultivars require 250–500 hr @ <50°F) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of chill hours (most cultivars require 300–900 hr @ <45°F) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient daylength (>15 hr for adequate vegetative growth)
Adaptive agronomic technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bud induction by gibberellic acid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budbreak induction by urea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day extension with supplemental LED lights
Adaptable cultivar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Queen • Imperial Star • 20-063 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime-Ark Freedom • Ouachita • Osage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cascade • Zeus • Comet
Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premium prices (harvest during the low-supply season) • Dual income potential (edible buds + ornamental flowers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive for U-pick • High prices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two crops a year (only in FL) • Premium prices (terroir)
Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short harvest window (Jan–Apr) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality loss by heat stress • High labor requirement for cane management and harvest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High initial costs for hopyard, farm equipment, and postharvest equipment • Hurricane damage risk • Unestablished market for locally-grown hops in FL

Shinsuke Agehara

Associate Professor, Horticultural Crop Physiology
 UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
 14625 CR 672, Balm, FL
 (813) 419-6583 | sagehara@ufl.edu

