Indigenous SE Asian Specialty Crops in Fresno County

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Thailand – Chiang Mai
SE Asian Vegetable Farmers in Fresno - 1,300 Laotian

2007 survey
Lemongrass, *Cymbopogon citratus*
Monocotyledoneae – Gramineae

stir fry or tea, tender perennial, 10-month crop
Multiplier Onions, *Allium fistulosum*
Monocotyledoneae – Amaryllidaceae
milder than bunching onions, perennial
Jujube, *Ziziphus jujube*

**Rhamnaceae Family**

Chinese date (fresh or dried), medicinal, small trees, no pests
Okra leaf, *Corchorus olitorius*

*Tillaceae Family*

Mucilaginous consistency like okra, edible shoot tips
Ceylon (Malabar) Spinach, *Basella alba/rubra*

**Basellaceae Family**

Succulent mature leaves in soups and stews
Water Spinach, *Ipomoea aquatica*

Convolvulaceae Family

hollow stems, aquatic tender perennial
Thai Pepper, *Capsicum annuum*

*Solanaceae Family*

Considered some of the hottest peppers
Eggplant, *Solanum melongena* / *torvum* / *integrifolium*

**Solanaceae Family**

Many different kinds – Thai, Hmong, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Italian, bitter, bunching
Solanaceae Family

bitter, cultivated, and used in soups with meat, in stores
Methi, *Trigonella foenum-graecum*

**Leguminosae (Fabaceae Family)**

(fenugreek) an herb or spice. East Indian
Long Beans, *Vigna sesquipedalis*

**Leguminosae Family**

Asparagus or yardlong beans; dark or light green, mosaic, or red
Snow Peas, *Pisum sativum*

Leguminosae Family

Grown for either edible pod (trellised) or stem tips (untrellised), but not both.
Hyacinth bean, *Lablab niger* (*Dolichos lablab*)

Leguminosae Family

immature fruits, poisonous in large quantities uncooked
Bittermelon, *Mormodica charantia*

Cucurbitaceae Family

Trellised for fruit, untrellised for tips, fruits & tips, bitterness (quinine) increases with age, pests?? nema
Snake Gourd, *Trichosanthes anguina*

Cucurbitaceae Family

Flowers are delicately trimmed, fruits turn red if overripe
Sinqua (Luffa), *Luffa actuangula/cylindrica*  
*Cucurbitaceae Family*

Trellised, mature dry cylindrica makes luffa scrubber, both make excellent squash
Sinqua (Luffa), *Luffa actuangula/cylindrica*

mature fruits sold for luffa sponge
Opo, *Lagenaria siceraria*

Cucurbitaceae Family

fruits are smooth and hairless, tips also eaten
Moqua, *Benincasa hispida var. chiehqua*
*Cucurbitaceae Family*

fruits are hairy and acquire a white waxy coating when mature, eaten immature
Donqua, *Benincasa hispida*
Cucurbitaceae Family

Chinese wintermelon, up to 30 pounds, untrellised
Other Crops – daikon, Chinese cabbage, gailon, Mustard, Choys (bok, you, gai)

Cruciferae Family
Crops with Potential

Papaya (-salad), sugarcane (fresh, rum), Schuan Pepper, taro, bamboo, edamame, peanuts, pitahaya, water chestnuts, chayote (fruit & tips)