

# **VEGETABLE RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**UMass Research Farm Field Day, August 13, 2003**

## **Organic Transition Fields at the Research Farm**

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Research that is relevant to organic farming has been conducted at the UMass Research farm for many years. Around the research farm, fields are rotated among crops from year to year, and cover cropping is used to build soil. However, we have only recently made the decision to dedicate certain fields to research on organic farming methods and to manage the fields organically over a long period. Currently, 4 acres are in the second or third year of transition into organic management. Fields have been planted with successions of cover crops including oats, buckwheat, Sorghum/sudangrass, hairy vetch, and rye. In 2004 and 2005, these fields will be certifiable. The hoop houses for winter greenhouse production will also be managed by organic methods. We are currently seeking funding to expand our research and teaching programs in this area.