

Crop Variety and Perishable Fruits

Project Director: Mr. Diony Martinez
Team Leader: Immanuelle Craan

Problem Statement: What processes must take place before South Florida truck farming crops are ready for the market?

Due to South Florida's tropical climate, various fruits are able to grow throughout the four seasons. The fruits are grown according to the season in which they will blossom. Once they are harvested, it is essential they are taken to the market as quickly and efficiently as possible in order to preserve their natural freshness. The practice of truck farming, or refrigerated transportation to local organic grocers, is common practice throughout the Redlands. During our investigative visit to the Homestead Fruit and Spice Park, a wide array of information was gathered as it related to the basics of growing cash crops in the region. Seasonal plants, such as avocado, mulberry, and papaya, "create certain demands for specific fruits in local markets" (Craan, 2013).

According to local farmers, most successful fruiting plants that are properly maintained produce within the first one to five years. "They are fed two to three times a day depending on the particular yield" (Craan, 2013); in addition to proper pruning, fertilizing and watering in the scorching Florida heat. Specific hybrid tomatoes are the only crop in the area that can be fully grown and harvested in Florida winter. This makes it a chief export of the Homestead and Redlands region.

Conclusion

Truck farming helps farmers year round to preserve perishable items such as bananas, avocados, oranges, and many other fruit and vegetable varieties. Truck farming allows for farmers to efficiently and productively send their goods to the market. It also provides a hormone and chemical free approach to food preservation. These crops can subsequently be sold to consumers at their finest, freshest, and most valuable state.

Resources

Mani, L. (2013, 02 13). Interview by I Craan. Crop Variety and Perishable Fruits.



Mulberry

Tamarind

Oranges

Papayas



Avocados



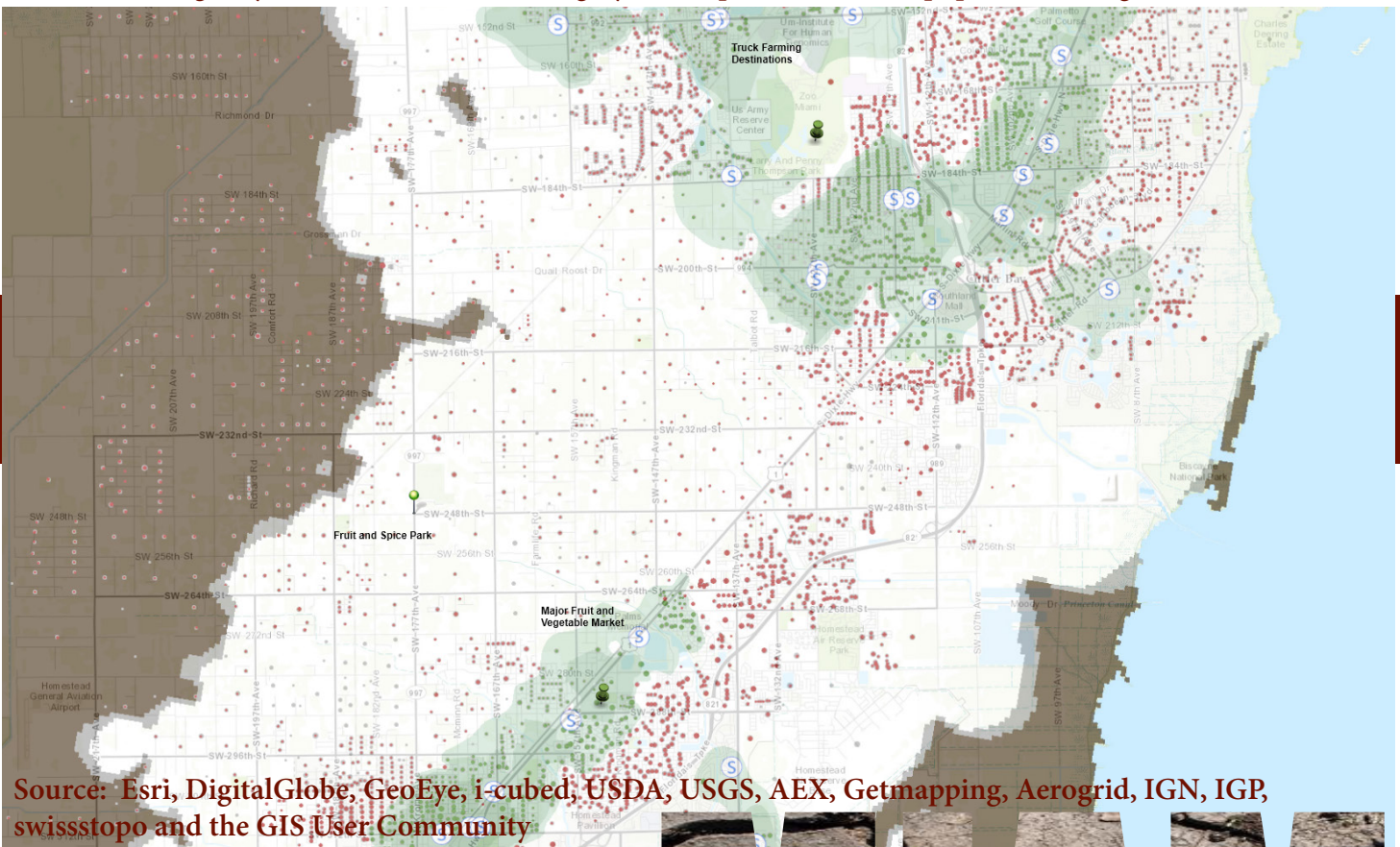
Bananas

Philodendron



Red Bananas

The green dots represent populations in poverty who live within one mile of a supermarket. The red dots represent populations in poverty who live beyond a one mile walk to a supermarket, but may live within a 10 minute drive...assuming they have access to a car. The grey dots represent the total population in a given area.



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swissstopo and the GIS User Community

