
 *
 * Mimeograph Sept. 1942 *
 * Paper No. 4 GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN EXPERIMENT STATION Revised: *
 * Tifton, Georgia Sept. 1948 *
 *
 * Information based on results of practical experiments in *
 * agriculture for press release and distribution to farmers *
 *

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMERCIAL ONION PRODUCTION

1. Varieties: Yellow Bermuda is best adapted for commercial production in South Georgia. Crystal Wax is also used as an early maturing variety but has been less productive in Experiment Station trials.
2. Soils: Well drained, highly productive, sandy loam soils are preferable. Leguminous cover crops preceding onions are excellent for enriching and conditioning the soil.
3. Preparation of Land: The land should be thoroughly broken and should be harrowed as many times as is necessary to prepare a well pulverized seed bed.
4. Fertilization: 1500 to 2000 pounds of a fertilizer containing 4% nitrogen, 8% phosphoric acid, and 8% potash should give good results. About half of the fertilizer should be applied ten days or two weeks previous to planting and the remainder during the first half of February. To avoid injury to plants, the preplanting application should be mixed with the soil by running a scooter plow behind the distributor. If plants are not making satisfactory growth, in early March it is considered advisable to use about 100 pounds of nitrate of soda or its equivalent as a side dressing. An application of 150 pounds of a 10-0-10 is satisfactory.
5. Seed Treatment: Treating seed with Semesan dust is recommended. Use one-fourth teaspoonful of Semesan to each pound of onion seed. Place seed in tight container (fruit jar or syrup can) with desired amount of dust and shake well for four or five minutes to insure thorough coverage. After treating, screen off any excess dust before planting. Treated seed may be planted immediately or stored in loose, porous bags or open containers.
6. Plant Production (in Beds): Drought at the time onion seed should be planted usually makes it difficult to obtain satisfactory germination under field conditions. Consequently beds for planting seed should be prepared in advance of the planting season so that well developed, stocky plants may be available for transplanting to the field as soon as weather conditions are favorable.

Better stands will be obtained if beds are located near a water supply so that some inexpensive type of irrigation may be used to supplement inadequate rainfall. A bed 50 X 100 feet should furnish enough plants for one acre. Into this area broadcast and harrow into the soil 200 pounds of fertilizer (4-8-6) about two weeks before seeding the bed.

The suggested row width is 10 inches and the rate of seeding is 4 to 5 seed to the lineal inch or 50 to 60 to each foot in the row. Using this rate of seeding, 2 to 3 pounds should be adequate for the bed referred to above. Seed should be planted 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch deep.

Use a garden seeder or roll the wheel of a garden plow or some other light roller over the rows to firm the soil. Water often enough to maintain constant

