

VIDALIA VEGETABLE NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENT IN ORGANICS

Georgia Organics in conjunction with the Risk Management Agency of the USDA is holding a workshop on June 29, 2006 from 8 am – 5 pm titled Farmers' Tool Chest: Essentials for Organic & Sustainable Growers. This workshop will provide training in business, farm planning, and pest management. It will be held at the Gaia Gardens, 800 Dancing Fox Rd., Decatur, GA 30032. The cost is \$35 for Georgia Organics members and \$45 for non-members. For more information visit Georgia Organics website at: <http://www.georgiaorganics.org/>.

VARIETY EVALUATION WITHOUT PESTICIDES

By George Boyhan and David Langston

Nine varieties were evaluate for yield and disease incidence without the application of any pesticides. The results of this evaluation are in the attached Excel workbook. Total yield ranged from 919-1169 50-lb bags/acre. FS 2005 had the lowest total yield, while Georgia Boy had the highest. Overall total yields were very good with a high percentage of jumbos. Medium yields consequently were very low. The percent marketable onions ranged from 53-91% with Century having the lowest percent marketable and Savannah Sweet the highest.

Botrytis Leaf Blight ratings ranged from 3.2-6.2 with Oohoopee Sweet having the lowest incidence and Savannah Sweet the highest. In addition, Savannah Sweet had the highest incidence of Purple Blotch with 46 counted lesions. Oohoopee Sweet also had the lowest incidence of Purple Blotch. The incidence of these diseases did not correlate with yield. Savannah Sweet with relatively high disease incidence also had the highest percent marketable onions. It should be noted that the disease data were transformed prior to analyses to normalize the distributions. This has the effect of lowering the LSDs which suggests a precision of separation that may be misleading.

Overall not much can be gleaned from this study other than fungicides may be overused in some cases. It is difficult however to extrapolate from small plot studies to large fields where diseases may react differently. In addition, a single year of data is usually not sufficient to draw meaningful conclusions. Further study is required in this area.

CHANGES TO THE VARIETY LIST

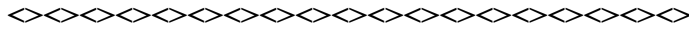
The Georgia Department of Agriculture has come out with their recommendations. They have recommended the elimination of Southern Belle, Southern Honey, Sweet Melissa (1519), and Sweet Advantage (DPS 1058). In addition, they have recommended the

addition of Miss Megan (DPSX 1290). Attached as an Excel workbook is the list of varieties as recommended by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

FROM MY DESK

We have a number of experiments underway this summer including cantaloupe, watermelon, and squash variety trials. In addition, I'm doing some work with Georgia Pacific and Nature Safe on fertilizers for cucurbits. Still don't have my voice back. Off to speech therapy. Talk to you next month.

Regards,



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