

VIDALIA VEGETABLE NEWS

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UPCOMING TWILIGHT SUMMER FIELD DAY

We are planning a twilight summer field day at the Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center. This field day is scheduled for June 21, 2007 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm which will highlight current research projects underway at the farm. We plan on serving a sponsored dinner followed by visits to the farm plots.

Some of the work underway at the farm includes a seed increase of ‘Orange Bulldog’. This is a new pumpkin release from the University of Georgia with increased virus disease resistance for fall production.

We’re also looking at shade grown pepper and tomato. Some preliminary work in Florida plus my own experience suggests that shade may be beneficial especially with pepper production.

There is also cantaloupe, watermelon, and pumpkin variety trials as well as watermelon pollenizer evaluations. If you have any questions you can contact me or Randy Hill (Farm Superintendent, 912/565-7822).

BEES AND VEGETABLE CROPS

There are a number of vegetable crops that benefit from bee pollination. With the loss of many feral hives to disease and insects, it is important that growers know that their crops are being properly pollenized. If they have any doubt they should contract with a beekeeper for hives. One to two strong hive per acre will insure adequate pollination for vegetable crops requiring pollination.

There are several apiaries in our area that may have hives for pollinations. Check out:

<http://www.beesource.com/suppliers/usbees.htm>

This site gives a list of apiaries by state and has links to those that have their own webpages.

At the University of Georgia, Keith Delaplane is the entomologist to contact for further information on bees and pollination. He has a website with lots of info on bees and beekeeping including recommendations about the number of beehives various crops require. Check out:

<http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/>

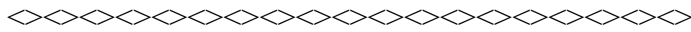
George Boyhan

FROM MY DESK

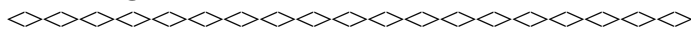
Don't forget about the field day at the Vidalia Farm on June 21st. It should be a good opportunity to see some interesting experiments. County agents in particular are encouraged to attend and to consider conducting research at the Vidalia Farm. The Vidalia Farm has a wide array of capabilities not just for onions. If you have a particular project in mind contact a specialist with expertise in that area to discuss a possible collaboration.

Norman Schmidt was the inspiration for the honeybee info. Norman is a chemistry professor at Georgia Southern University who keeps bees as a sideline. He owns Norel Farms which offers honey, pollination services, and pest bee removal. Check out his website at: <http://home.nctv.com/norelfarms/>
See you at the field day.

Regards,



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