

# Vidalia Vegetable News



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## **Open House at the Vidalia Farm**

It has been a long time in coming, but the new building at the Vidalia Farm is nearing completion. Just a few more details involving phones, computers, and moving in. It is a very nice facility with a large work area/kitchen, meeting room, offices, and handicap accessible restrooms.

There is an open house planned for Thursday, August 7, 2008 beginning at noon. There will be a thank you program for supporters of the new facility including legislators, the Vidalia Onion Committee, the Department of Corrections, and growers. There will be 'logo goodies' handed out at the meeting.

Come celebrate this important upgrade to the onion facility.

## **Vidalia Onion Variety Trial Flavor Results**

Attached are the results of the onion trial with the addition of pyruvate and sugar. The pyruvate values ranged from 2.3-4.9  $\mu\text{m/gfw}$  with an overall mean of 3.2. These numbers are considerably less than last year's results and represent an overall mild crop. Sugar values also looked very good with a range of 8.6-12.4% with an average of 10.1%. These are extremely high values representing very sweet onions.

## **Onion Fertility and No Spray Trials**

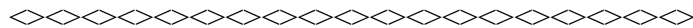
Attached are the results of the fertility and no spray trials for this year. The fertility experiment had 21 treatments primarily representing fertilizer company submissions. You should not read too much into the Avail treatments as we forgot to add sulfur to these treatments and this may have affected the results. All of the company protocols (Georgia-Pacific and Helena) appeared to do well. The complete detailed treatment list is on the worksheet 'General' (select this tab at the bottom of the workbook). The marketable yields were lower than what we would expect overall. The site wasn't the best with it prone to flooding on one side. In addition, we harvested the site late in the season with bacterial disease problems.

The no-spray experiment was originally set up as a 3x9 factorial with three treatments; no fungicide sprays, normal spray program, and spraying fungicide only at the end of the season with nine varieties. The end of the season spray treatment included one spray of a copper based fungicide and one spray of Pristine. Unfortunately, due to a miscommunication, the regular spray program was not instituted so the experiment turned out to be a 2x9 factorial with no fungicides and fungicide sprayed at the end of the season only. This was with the nine different varieties, which were harvested when judged mature.

In the previous season we had conducted a no spray trial and found these onions look as good or better than the regularly sprayed onions, however, when these onions were removed from controlled atmosphere storage the unsprayed onions had a much lower percent marketability compared to onions subjected to the routine fungicide program. It will be interesting to see how this year's onions fare after removal from CA storage.

There were statistically significant differences between the varieties in total yield as well as in each size class. There were not, however, any differences between onions subjected to no fungicide sprays compared to those sprayed at the end of the season. These results where the fungicide treatments are compared directly comport with what was seen informally last year.

Regards,



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