

Vidalia Vegetable News



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Twilight Summer Field Day

We are planning on having a twilight summer field day on Thursday, June 19, 2008 from 6:00-8:00 pm. We will have a catered dinner followed by visits to the field plots. This year we have watermelon, cantaloupe, and pumpkin variety trials. In addition, we are looking at various pollenizers (pollen source plants) for triploid watermelon production. There are several other experiments involving summer crops to view.

The new office and meeting facility should be finished by the time of this field day. This should be a great opportunity to view this new facility. This facility will give us the opportunity to process samples for transport to various labs as well as plan and host meetings. Please come join us at this event.

New Websites Featuring Onions

We have established two new websites devoted to onions. The first is the Vidalia Onion Website, which will be a clearing house for information related to Vidalia onions. This website will have all of the past Onion Research-Extension Reports dating back to 1992. This database of information is in pdf format that can be downloaded and searched. This should be a great resource for researchers and growers looking for research results.

This site will also have links to other information such as the updated Onion Production Bulletin, Organic Onion Circular, as well as information from other institutions. There will be a link to the Vidalia Onion Committee website and links to Vidalia onion farms that maintain a web presence. I hope to update this site regularly, including my newsletter and any attachments that go out with my newsletter. This site should be available in the next week or two and I will send out an announcement with the web location at that time.

The second site is for the National Allium Research Conference, which I will be hosting in December. This event is scheduled for December 10-13, 2008. It will be

held at the Riverfront Marriott in Savannah. Onion researchers from around the country are expected to attend. This website will have updated information about this conference as we get closer to the date. This website is accessible at:

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/events/narc/>

We should have online registration available sometime in early June.

Do You Need Honeybees?

Honeybees are important to several vegetable crops in Georgia to insure proper pollination. Many growers contract for hives to be brought into their fields to insure good pollination results. Up to two hives per acre has been shown to be beneficial. The University of Georgia maintains an excellent website on bees at:

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

This site has a wealth of information concerning honeybees and beekeeping.

If you need bees for pollination contact your local county extension office for help. In addition, you may wish to check out this website:

http://pollinator.com/Pollination_Beekeepers/ga_pollinators.htm

This site lists a number of individuals and companies offering bees for pollination. Norman Schmidt, a chemistry professor at Georgia Southern University, offers hives for pollination to local growers. Dr. Schmidt has information concerning his pollination services at Norel Farms at:

<http://home.nctv.com/norelfarms/>

Orange Bulldog Pumpkin

This year we have released and are offering for sale our new pumpkin variety, Orange Bulldog. This new pumpkin has increased disease resistance over conventional pumpkins. This means growers can more consistently produce pumpkins for fall markets. For more information about this pumpkin and to order seed go to website:

<http://www.gsdc.com/>

Click on the link for Orange Bulldog for more information about this variety including pictures. In addition there is an order form that can be downloaded and returned to obtain seed.

From My Desk

Don't forget our upcoming field day at the Vidalia Farm. This should be a great opportunity to see some of our spring and summer projects at the farm. I am hosting a planning meeting for the National Allium Research Conference in Statesboro, GA on May 27, 2008 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. This meeting is to help plan this upcoming event (Dec. 10-13, 2008). Lunch will be provided. I hope those of you interested can attend. For more information you can call me at my office. Talk to you next month.

Regards,



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