



Adams County  
*Extension*

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[www.adamscountyextension.org](http://www.adamscountyextension.org)

October 29, 2015

To: Onion Seed Companies and Onion Producers

From: Dr. Thaddeus Gourd, Extension Director & Agent (Agriculture)  
Eric Hammond, Agent (Horticulture)  
Cassey Anderson, Master Gardener Coordinator (Horticulture)

Another exciting year of onion variety testing has taken place at the Adams County Extension Office. I want to thank the onion seed companies, Bob Sakata and R.T. Sakata for supporting this year's Northern Colorado Onion Trials. Also, thanks to the Colorado Onion Association for its interest in our mycorrhizae onion research projects. It is our hope that this research provides onion producers in Colorado with information to make educated decisions when selecting onion varieties based on environmental and pest conditions experienced in Northern Colorado.

Both onion variety trial sites were set up at Sakata Farms locations. One site was located just northwest of Brighton, Colorado (Howard Farm) and the other north of Ft. Lupton, Colorado (Zaiss Farm). In general, weather conditions were cooler and wetter than normal in April and May which did have an impact on bulbs sizing up. Onions were planted at the Howard Farm location on March 23 and at the Zaiss Farm on March 31, 2015. The Howard Farm used sprinkler center pivot irrigation, and the Zaiss Farm used flood irrigation.

Research evaluations performed this year at both locations included emergence, thrips severity, maturity and yield. Onion emergence evaluations occurred on June 16 at the Howard Farm and June 18 at the Zaiss Farm. Good emergence was noted at both locations. Thrips populations were counted on June 26 at the Howard Farm and July 10 at the Zaiss Farm. The Howard Farm averaged only 6.2 thrips per onion plant, and the Zaiss location averaged 14.8 thrips per plant. This low thrips pressure could explain why very little Iris Yellow Spot Virus (IYSV) was observed at either location in 2015. Maturity data was taken on August 18 and September 10 at Howard Farm location and August 31 and September 14 at the Zaiss Farm location.

Harvest at the Howard Farm location occurred on September 10, followed by processing on September 11, 2015. Harvest at the Zaiss Farm location occurred on September 14 with processing on September 15, 2015. Bulbs were checked for disease at time of harvest at both locations. Onion storage data will tentatively be collected on January 7, 2015.

The Northern Colorado Onion Variety Trials Field Tour was held on Friday, September 4. This field tour, with breakfast, was sponsored by Jose Solorzano of American Takii.

A more in-depth discussion of this year's research and the final onion storage report will be presented at the Colorado Onion Association Meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2015.

Enclosed are all reports except storage for the 2015 Northern Colorado Onion Variety Trials. Contact Cassey Anderson at 303-637-8103 or [canderson@adcogov.org](mailto:canderson@adcogov.org) or Thaddeus with comments or questions at 303-637-8117. You can visit our web site at [www.adamscountyextension.org](http://www.adamscountyextension.org) for 2015 onion variety trial results.

***Emergence, Thrips, Maturity and Harvest Reports***

- The harvest yield is in tons per acre and includes colossals, jumbos, and mediums, prepacks and defects. Market yield does not include pre-packs or defects.
- The defects are a combination of scallions, sprouts and rots.
- Measurements for the various grades were:
  - Colossal onion – greater than 4 inches
  - Jumbo onion – 3 to 4 inches
  - Medium onion – 2 ¼ to 3 inches
  - Prepack onion – under 2 ¼ inches

***Again, Special thanks*** to Bob and R. T. Sakata in Brighton for allowing us to use their fields for this year's research project.

**2016 Northern Colorado Onion Variety Trials**

The cost of the 2016 variety trials will be **\$200** per **coated** seed variety for two locations. **Raw** seed variety cost for the 2015 trials will be **\$275** per seed variety for two locations

Please mark your calendars, place your orders and send **at least 8 oz.** of **coated** seed no later than February **19, 2015**. Coated seed is preferred, with at least 8 oz. of seed per variety. Coated seed is now used to facilitate consistent planting with farm equipment. If you are unable to provide coated seed, a special effort will be made to thin these raw seed plots to compare with the coated varieties. **It is imperative that we receive this seed by February 19, 2015, so we can plant when the surrounding fields are planted.**

*Please include a brief description of any variety that has not been in the trials previously. Also provide the color and storage capability such as: Long term, Intermediate, or Short Term (no storage) for each variety.*

Send varieties to:

Cassey Anderson  
CSU Cooperative Extension  
9755 Henderson Road  
Brighton, CO 80601-8114

Make checks payable to: **Adams County**

*If there are problems getting the seed to us in time, please contact Cassey at 303-637-8103 or email her at [canderson@adcogov.org](mailto:canderson@adcogov.org).*