

Management of Uniformity in Size of Bulbs in

Recognize the problem

Non-uniformity in bulb size of onion is a very big problem which leads to economic loss to the farmers. Non-uniform bulbs are difficult to store for marketing. The difference in size does not attract a good value for the crop in the market. Hence, the uniformity in size of onion bulbs is very important.

Background

Uniformity in maturity plays a very important role in bulb size and storage quality. Onion is a moderate weather crop and should be planted early to attain the largest bulb size. Selecting the correct variety and understanding the climatic and other environmental factors that affect its performance is extremely important.

Management

- Adequate light and frequent irrigation should be used when onions are small to minimize leaching of nitrogen from the root zone
- Application of optimum fertilizer is essential for top quality and yields
- Proper moisture management is important in alleviating pink root problems, general root health, and therefore bulb growth vigour
- Maintaining an even soil moisture is important in reducing incidence of double-centre bulbs
- Spray Chlormequat chloride, e.g. Lihocin 50% / CCC at 0.5 ml per litre of water 60 and 75 days after transplanting seedlings to help maintain the size of the bulbs

Non-uniform bulb size (Photo by Chiot's Run (CC-BY-NC))



Uniform shape bulbs. (Photo by LexnGer (CC BY-NC))



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: India



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