Georgia Department of Agriculture Proposes New Variety Additions

The Georgia Department of Agriculture in a reversal of a previous position has decided to add seven new varieties to the official list of Vidalia onion varieties. The new additions include:

- Honeybee  Shamrock Seed
- WI-129  Wannamaker
- SS 2005  Solar Seed
- Golden Eye  Seminis
- XON-403Y  Sakata
- HSX-61304  Hortag
- YG 15082  Dessert

Honeybee, WI-129, and SS 2005 are early maturing, while Golden Eye, XON-403Y, and YG 15082 are mid-season. Finally, HSX-61304 is a late variety. This is not a done deal however, the Ga. Dept. of Agriculture will have a hearing on these varieties on September 12, 2007 at 10:00 am in room 201 of the Agriculture Building, 19 MLK Jr. Drive, Atlanta, GA 30334. Bobby Harris is the contact in the Dept. office (404/656-3368). If adopted this will bring the total number of varieties available to 28.

A Reminder to Seed Companies to Register with the Ga. Dept. of Agriculture

Rules governing the production of Vidalia onions require seed companies to register any proposed new varieties with the Dept. prior to testing in the official variety trial. Seed companies should contact the Ga. Dept. of Agriculture concerning this at:
Ga. Dept. of Agriculture  
Marketing Division, Agriculture Bldg. Rm. 324  
Capital Square  
Atlanta, GA 30334-4201  
404/656-3680  
404/656-9380 FAX  

In addition, information about any test plots seed companies have in the Vidalia onion growing region needs to be forwarded to the Ga. Dept. of Agriculture. The deadline for submission of this information is **January 15** of the harvest year.  

If you have any questions about this you can contact Bob Meyer at the above listed address.  

**From My Desk**  

Normally I won’t send out my newsletter this early, but in light of the Ga. Dept. of Agriculture decision to consider new varieties, I thought it would be a good idea to get the word out early. I’ve been contacted by several seed companies about this so I’m sure they will be interested in seeing this information. We were very late with our summer projects this year and are just now finishing up the harvest. Nothing like harvesting watermelon, cantaloupe, and pumpkin during the hottest days of the year. Talk to you next month.  

Regards,  

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