

ONIONS, GREEN BUNCHING

Varieties

Bunching:

American Type: Beltsville Bunching, Green Banner.
Japanese Type: Ishikura, Kincho, Fukagawa, Ramrod, Kiyotaki Long White.

Pickling: Eclipse.

See your seed dealer for the most recent variety recommendations.

Germination

Germination will occur at temperatures from 8 to 30°C with the optimum range at 16° – 24° C.

Soils

A pH of 5.0 to 6.0 is suitable for organic soils but 6.5 to 7.0 is preferred for mineral soils.

When the pH is below the range considered suitable, lime should be applied and incorporated thoroughly to a depth of 15 cm or more.

A late summer green-manure crop of oats, plowed down or worked in, before the ground becomes too wet to work is beneficial. An application of ammonium nitrate when the green-manure crop is being turned in will help break down the material.

Soil for use in flats should have bonemeal or phosphate added to it and should be sterilized before use, preferably in the early fall.

Fertilizer

A soil test is necessary to determine phosphate and potash requirements. See page 13 for recommendations based on soil test results.

Prior to transplanting or seeding, broadcast and incorporate 70 kg/ha (28 kg/acre) nitrogen and all the required phosphate and potash.

It may be necessary to side-dress the transplanted crop.

Seeding

Early Crop

The early crop is seeded in flats and is germinated and grown to transplant size in greenhouses or cold frames. When ready the seedlings are planted in clumps in rows which are 30 to 37.5 cm apart.

Later Crops

As soon as the soil can be worked seeding is done in the field by hand or with a Planet Junior type of seeder. Four to 7 rows are seeded per bed. Seed requirement is approximately 15 kg/ha (6 kg/acre).

Weed Control

Weed control is important particularly during the early stages. If done by hand, extreme care has to be taken not to disturb or damage the young onion seedlings. Chemical control may be done for the seeded crop as follows:

Stale Seed-bed Technique (See Chapter 6).

Or Dacthal W75 (chlorthal) (See Table 7.34 – same rates and instructions as for bulb onions. See also the fold-out chart inside the back cover).