



Straight from the breeder

A guaranteed better result!

Newsletter



Here is the latest edition of the Quality inside newsletter for you, with news items that are relevant to you as a grower and trader.

For example, what damage can herbicide spraying do to onions?

We hope you enjoy reading this and we wish you a great growing season!



Growers review the onion sets process

Company tour at Broer B.V. in Creil.
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Status in onion sets

The main issues to understand before planting.
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Weed control with second-year onion sets

Fewer corrections are required with a good base.
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Hercules

- Highly productive and very uniform
- Very suitable for long term storage
- Round bulb
- Good bolting tolerance
- Very uniform erect leaves
- Suitable for the processing industry



Red Light

red, heat treated

- Earliest red hybrid onion set in the assortment
- Good combination of earliness, yield and colour
- Uniform in maturity

Unique genetics
The best varieties for you
www.qualityinside.nl



Grower review the onion sets process



On Wednesday 10 February 2016, an excursion was organised by De Groot and Slot for a group of set onion growers from Zeeuws-Vlaanderen (southernmost region of the province of Zeeland). This is a region of large-scale cultivation of second-year onion sets.

It is important that growers understand what happens with their product before being delivered to their yard. That is why De Groot en Slot operates with transparency and likes to demonstrate that it is fully committed to quality. Siem Beers of Broer B.V. gave an interesting presentation. Among other things, he talked about the power of the Quality inside concept, with genetics under direct management, and about the inspection requirements and hygiene protocols that the growers of first-year onion sets must comply with.

Subsequently, the growers were given a tour of the company.

The growers were very impressed with the Creil location of Broer B.V. The 10,000 box storage, the sorting unit grading with millimetre accuracy and the preparation room were impressive sights. The disinfection space was also part of the tour. Disinfection is done with a foam system. The foam is a greasy substance ensuring that the disinfectant properly bonds with the onion. This prevents the product from getting too wet, minimising the drying time.

There was extensive interest in storage and climate control within Broer B.V. The company does not use any heaters. An ingenious NH₃ heat pump system is used for energy-efficient drying, cooling

and preparing. A great example of sustainability.

The Creil location is equipped with an advanced grading unit accurate to one millimetre. This technology ensures that the Quality inside varieties can be supplied in three sizes. In order to enable precision planting, growers can be supplied with the required size grading. For the Quality inside varieties, it is possible to further grade the 10/21 mm size into three fractions for an even better result.

After the successful excursion, the group of onion set growers extensively discussed the latest methods and the option of using some of these methods themselves!



Status in onion sets



Upon publication of this edition, your onion sets have been planted and are growing up nicely. All batches have been inspected on the grow-out tablets in Bejo Zaden B.V.'s Warmenhuizen laboratory. This way, we know more about the growing progress of each batch of onion sets.

Soil is naturally a key element. The soil in which the first-year onion sets are grown is tested for white rot (*Sclerotium cepivorum*), stem nematodes (*Ditylenchus dipsaci*) and potato cyst nematode (AM). If one of these, or a combination, is found, no first-year onion sets are cultivated. We have discussed this extensively in one of the previous editions. Please refer to the article 'Keuringseisen (Inspection Requirements) Naktuinbouw Select Plan', or consult the Naktuinbouw website: www.naktuinbouw.nl.

However, the soil where the second-year onion sets are cultivated is important too - is that tested? What is the history of the fields? Were the pre-crops heavily dosed? These are all key elements we must understand before planting in order to enhance the growing process of the onion sets.

Keep the time between calling and planting as short as possible

Most onion sets were harvested in August and arrived in fine conditions. A number of plots were harvested later and consequently arrived later due to unfavourable weather conditions. This makes the onion sets slightly more

mature. As a result, some onion sets may lose some skins when processing and preparing. If the onion sets are planted shortly after processing, this is generally not a problem. Actually, these onion sets are set to grow a bit quicker. This is why the time between collecting and planting should be as short as possible.

The onion sets are stored optimally under good conditions. We bring the onion sets to resting mode after drying in order to leave as much energy as possible in the onion sets. High energy enhances the growing process of the onion sets.

After seven months of storage, the quality was still fine. Keeping humidity rates high means the onion sets are energetic. Meanwhile, they are almost all up, and we are hoping for a good harvest and good prices.



Weed control with second-year onion sets

First and foremost, undisturbed growth of the onion sets should be realised, as this is a key element in quality. Undisturbed growth means preventing stress, which also counters any bolting risk.

When applying the available soil herbicides, the properties of the soil are important. A tip is to carefully review the soil analysis. It is also important to know whether the soil is humid or not, and if any precipitation is forecast. The properties of the herbicides, such as solubility, are also important. Bonding agents can improve solubility where necessary. For the right timing of the application, it is important to check the expected precipitation and the humidity at the moment of spraying. The choice of herbicides is naturally also dependent on the available and expected weed presence.

Ensure responsible, quick build-up of soil herbicides. With a good basis, fewer corrections are required while allowing undisturbed growth.

Professionalism, knowledge and timing are far more crucial than dosing.



Early harvest and virtually year-round delivery desired in France

In France, Vallegumes, a customer, has been looking for the right way to ensure earlier onion harvest. Additionally, the company aims to be able to deliver onions to the French supermarkets 50 weeks of the year.

Vallegumes is a large cultivation company in France, in particular for stocking French supermarkets.

Together with representative Eric Gossart, a trial was started with the Quality inside Troy onion set. This was planted on 10 October. The drilled onion Bridger was sown on the same date. In spring, the onion sets Jagro, Troy and Centurion were planted. The plan was completed with the drilled onions Hybound and Hypark.

For more information please visit our website:

www.qualityinside.nl

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