

Excel Onion

**early maturing and of high quality,
new variety proven good producer**

H. A. Jones, Bruce A. Perry and Glen N. Davis

Producing 35% more onions of high quality 10 to 14 days earlier than conventional Yellow Bermudas, with fewer bolters, doubles and splits, off-colors and other undesirables, is the record of Yellow Bermuda 986.

Extensive tests by commercial growers and seed producers in southern California and south Texas have proved its merits.

The 986 was derived from a single plant and developed cooperatively by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and the California Agricultural Experiment Station. It showed such early promise that it was released to selected growers of the seed trade.

Trials in 1946

Seed grown in the Imperial Valley was sent through various State agencies to onion growers for extensive commercial trials in 1946.

Near El Centro, 12 acres of 986 were seeded directly on raised beds on October 25, 1945. Harvested April 3rd to 17th, they yielded 6,043 50-pound bags of onions, or an average of 503 bags per acre. Bolters were 25% to 30% but as the market was strong, these were topped and sold.

On an adjoining field a second planting of 30 acres was made November 2, 1945. Harvested April 17th to 24th, it produced 16,627 50-pound bags, or 554 bags per acre. In this second planting, less than 2% were bolters.

On the basis of a one-year test, November 1st seems to be about the right time to plant 986 in the Imperial Valley to produce bulbs without transplanting.

For the first time, the growers in the Imperial Valley could market onions on the West Coast about the same time as the Texas growers.

Where accurate comparisons could be made, 986 had a lower percentage of bolters and was practically free from splits, doubles, pink flesh, and other off-colors. It was uniform in size, shape, color of bulbs, and time of maturity, and ripened 10 to 15 days ahead of other strains.

One peculiar trait of 986 observed in all locations was the ability of bolters to become good-sized, well-shaped onions.

Though not a storage variety, 986 keeps better in storage than other yellow Bermudas tested—an advantage in holding bulbs for seed purposes. Yellow Bermuda 986 is especially crisp and mild in flavor, making it a very desirable salad onion.

An important feature of 986 is its early maturity. To maintain this early maturing habit it is important that the onion bulbs for the production of stock seed be selected in the South. The place of seed production is not important, but the place where onion bulbs are selected for the production of stock seed is extremely so.

Preliminary tests indicate that 986 is not a good transplant crop for the North, since its extreme earliness causes it to mature while the bulbs are still small.

Test Results

The following results obtained by growers in California indicate what may be expected of Yellow Bermuda 986.

On trial grounds at El Centro, 986 was seeded directly on October 26, 1945; 5% bolted, and there were no doubles or off-colors. The adjoining row of Yellow Bermuda, planted at the same time, was about 10 days later and had 30% bolters and 50% splits and doubles.

DAIRY

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0.6 cents. Average prices in Los Angeles have ranged from 0.6¢ above to 0.7¢ below the San Francisco price, but over a period of years the difference has amounted to only 0.1¢ a pound.

Cheese prices, while more difficult to compare because of differences in qualities and grades for which quotations are made in the major markets, move very closely together.

Evaporated milk prices are reported on a regional rather than a market basis, but again the prices in the various parts of the country move up and down together almost perfectly.

R. G. Bressler, Jr., is Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics and Associate Agricultural Economist in the Experiment Station and on the Giannini Foundation, Berkeley.

The relation between dairy product prices and prices paid farmers for milk will be discussed in the January issue.

Yellow Bermuda 986 planted in four large field test plots near Bakersfield matured 10 to 14 days ahead of the early variety generally grown there, but yield was only about 60% of that produced by this check variety. The percentage of bolters was low, but a high percentage of doubles appeared near Shafter. Despite its early maturity, 986 was not early enough to compete for the early market.

In the Coachella Valley, near Indio, Yellow Bermuda 986 was compared in several locations with Texas Grano and Crystal Wax.

It matured about two weeks before either of these two varieties, with no doubles or bolters apparent.

Average yields per acre in 50-pound sacks were: Texas Grano, 750; Yellow Bermuda 986, 528; and Crystal Wax, 480.

Six selected 986 bulbs weighed 2.5 pounds, whereas six of Texas Grano weighed 3.5 pounds.

Yellow Bermuda 986 attained excellent size and quality, and can be recommended for planting in the Coachella Valley.

H. A. Jones is Horticulturist, United States Department of Agriculture.

Bruce A. Perry is Entomologist, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Glen N. Davis is Associate Professor of Truck Crops and Associate Olericulturist in the Experiment Station, Davis.

CORN

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observation led to further inquiry. If the hybrids showed varying degrees of susceptibility, the inbred lines which are used as parents should also vary in their reaction to this disease. Over 70 inbred lines obtained from corn belt experiment stations have been tested over a period of two years, grown under conditions best suited to the Fusarium fungus. In order to get a severe test of susceptibility, spore suspensions of the fungus were sprayed on the silks of the corn. At harvest time the effect of the disease was noted. These tests indicated that there are differences in the susceptibility of inbred lines. A large proportion of the lines tested, that were obtained from the California variety King Philip Hybrid, were in the more resistant class. The work has progressed one step further. Crosses of inbred lines with varying degrees of susceptibility have been made in all possible combinations. From this type of study it is hoped that a hybrid corn combination will be found which will have the necessary qualities for profitable yields with Fusarium resistance added, a tailor-made hybrid combination, particularly adapted to California.

Francis L. Smith is Associate Professor of Agronomy and Associate Agronomist in the Experiment Station, Davis.