

March 2024 Michigan Onion Committee Newsletter



Michigan Onion Newsletter
6835 S Krepps Rd
St Johns, MI 48879

Onion Committee Meeting Calendar

Date	Location	Time
June 6, 2024	MOC meeting - Celery Promotion Bldg - 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426	12:00pm
August 2024	MOC twilight onion trials and dinner	5:30pm
Nov ??, 2024	MOC Annual Meeting, TBD	TBD



Michigan Onion Assessments

Please send assessments to:
Michigan Onion Committee
6835 S Krepps Rd
St Johns, MI 48879

2023 onions are harvested and many shipped. The Michigan Onion Committee is receiving onion assessments for the year. 2023 assessment forms and instructions were sent with the fall newsletter and can be found at michiganonion.com. Any questions or concerns please contact Greg Bird at gbird@michiganonion.com or 517-663-6725.

Those involved in growing and packing onions will receive an **assessment report** with this newsletter, regarding the current 2023 assessments. Please review this report and compare it with your records. All **2023 onion assessments are due before the end of June 2024**.

Current Onion Research

Some updates have been made to the Michigan Onion Committee (MOC) website: michiganonion.com. These updates should make it easier to find previous onion trial results and NOA stats, as well as give access to prior newsletters and research projects.

Grant Type	Details	Grantee
Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)	Onion Thrips and Foliar Disease Management in Commercial Onions in Michigan. This project will develop a new onion thrips action threshold based on disease management. The project will also determine the effect of plastic mulches on onion thrips management.	Dr. Zsofia Szendrei's lab
SCBG	Influence of Tip/Leaf Burn and New Fungicides on Onion Stemphylium Leaf Blight	Dr. Mary Hausbeck's lab
GREEN	Identifying Alternate Hosts for Stemphylium Can Protect Michigan Onions, 2 year matching funds from MOC	Dr. Mary Hausbeck's lab

A proposed grant was written to research a solution to be used to solve the white campion problem. Perhaps in other locations, but very much in the Hudsonville area there are onion growers struggling to manage the white campion weed. This weed is a fairly new problem and is very difficult to manage. Pending grant award news, the Michigan Onion Committee will continue to do whatever it can to get resources lined up to solve this white campion issue.

2024 Michigan Onion Variety Observation Trials

2023 brought changes to our trials program. Onion seed companies contacted grower cooperators to work with. Growers were asked to plant some trial seeds at their farm. The seed company coordinated details (regarding the varieties entered, location, and date of planting) with the Michigan Onion Committee. The Michigan Onion Committee thanks Darryl Warncke for leading the trials for many years. The trials will be coordinated in 2024 by the seed companies and the onion committee, with James Young as the point person for communications.

Prior to the Onion Twilight meeting in August, samples of the various varieties entered into the Michigan Onion Variety Observation Trials will be collected and then taken to V&W Farms in Byron Center. The onions will then be stored and transported for display at the 2024 Great Lakes Expo.

The onions will be displayed in the main aisle of the trade show. Please don't forget to check them out.

Michigan Vegetable Industry Videos on Youtube

youtube.com/@michiganvegetablecouncil

What playlists can you watch:
Michigan Onion Industry (6 videos)
2023 Lapeer Country Flooding (7 videos)
Michigan Vegetable Industry (12 videos)
Michigan Vegetable Industry Award Videos (18 videos)

Executive Director's Notes

4 Michigan counties were declared disasters for vegetable growers in the summer of 2023. The disasters were declared by Secretary Vilsack of USDA. The disasters were declared due to excessive rain for Lapeer, Monroe, Macomb, and St Clair.

The Michigan Onion Committee meets with MSU research at the November meeting in order to discuss research needs based on outcomes of the previous field season.

Bruce Klamer, former chair(current committee appointee) of the Michigan Onion Committee was able to attend the National Onion Association(NOA) DC fly-in in February 2024. Bruce was able to work with the NOA to talk with many federal elected officials on many issues facing onion growers. Bruce is employed by Miller Chemical, who was generous enough to fund Bruce's trip to DC. Some topics emphasized were: H2A, imports being held to the same standard as what we do, EPA and the Endangered Species Act, and the importance of the IRA4 to specialty crops.

The Michigan Onion Committee believes that the NOA organization is an important organization for the Michigan onion growers to be part of. The Michigan Onion Committee purchased NOA individual farm memberships for Michigan growers in July of 2023. The plan is to budget for 2024-25 in June and then purchase memberships for onion growers once again in July.