

# Summer 2025 Michigan Onion Committee Newsletter



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

## Onion Committee Meeting Calendar

Date	Location	Time
August 27, 2025	MOC twilight onion trials and dinner - V&W Farms - 4040 100th St SW, Byron Center, MI 49315	6:00pm
Nov 10, 2025	MOC Annual Meeting, Lansing area TBD	2:00pm
March 10, 2026	Michigan Celery Bldg, 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426	10:00am
June 9, 2026	Michigan Celery Bldg, 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426	12:00pm

**Twilight onion trials and steak dinner - August 27, 2025 6pm**

[Michigan Onion and Celery video on Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZhAjsnaKnk)

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2024 Michigan Onion

## Trials and Dinner Sponsors

## Michigan Onion Assessments

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

2025 onions are in the ground. 2025 assessment forms and instructions are included and can be found at [michiganonion.com](http://michiganonion.com). Any questions or concerns please contact Greg Bird at [gbird@michiganonion.com](mailto:gbird@michiganonion.com) or 517-663-6725.

Those involved in growing and packing onions will receive an **assessment report** with this newsletter regarding the 2024 assessments. Please review this report and compare it with your records. All **2024 onion assessments are due before the end of June 2025.**

## Current Onion Research

Some updates have been made to the Michigan Onion Committee website: [michiganonion.com](http://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. Extended into 2025	Dr. Zsofia Szendrei's lab
SCBG	Influence of Tip/Leaf Burn and New Fungicides on Onion Stemphylium Leaf Blight, End Summer 2025	Dr. Mary Hausbeck's lab
Onion	White Champion in Hudsonville project, hosted by Schreur Farms, work by Vriesland Growers and Dr Dan Brainard	Vriesland Growers
SCBG	Stemphylium Work Proposal Has been Submitted during Winter 2025	Dr. Mary Hausbeck's lab

## 2025 Great Lakes Expo is December 9-11

What's happening at Expo 2025? The drone symposium in 2024 allowed about 100 attendees to get 6 RUP credits. The drone symposium is going to be expanded to accommodate 150-200 attendees. The Expo Social was rebranded in 2024 and had upwards of 400 attendees, who enjoyed a free drink and a massive charcuterie board prior to industry awards.

## 2025 Michigan Onion Variety Observation Trials

The onion variety trials have been coordinated by James Young of the Michigan Onion Committee. Seed companies will have trials at locations of their choosing. On the day of the onion variety trials, onions will be harvested and taken to V&W Farms for the twilight dinner and meeting on August 27. The onion industry is invited to this dinner, see location and time on the Onion Committee Meeting Calendar. A sponsorship form should be included with this newsletter or find it on the website if you wish to help sponsor the steak dinner and onion trials.

A new change to the 2025 Format. In the past we have taken the onions displayed at the Twilight meeting in August and stored them. We then took them to the Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable Expo show in December in Grand Rapids Michigan and displayed them at this show. The Michigan Onion Committee (MOC) displayed them for educational purposes. Because many years might be challenging and the onions might not be totally ready by the Twilight meeting, we will allow the Seed Representative that brought the onions to the Twilight meeting to bring the same type of and number of onions to the Great Lakes Show for display. Only onion varieties that were brought to the Twilight meeting will be allowed at Expo. For further details or questions, contact: James Young JY5164842@gmail.com C:269-945-7799 or anyone else on the Michigan Onion Committee.

## Michigan Onion Committee - National Onion Association (NOA) Memberships - Asking Growers for Donation

The Michigan Onion Committee will again for the 3rd year, pay the dues for Michigan onion growers to be members of the National Onion Association (NOA). This will be done for Michigan onion growers who paid onion assessments the prior growing season.

The NOA does the following: "We are the onion authority, representing America's onion growers and its supporting industry. We compile and disseminate onion industry information and lobby for the industry's interests in Washington D.C., as well as monitor international trade. We compile the late summer/fall storage crop estimate reports from October through April."

The Michigan Onion Committee has a limited budget and cannot afford to provide this membership free of charge forever. The Michigan Onion Committee is asking for each grower to make a donation towards the cost of this membership each year. There will be a NEW place on the assessment form to add a donation towards NOA membership. NOA membership currently costs \$195 per farm plus \$1.95 per acre of onions grown over 100 acres. The donation does not need to be the full farm membership cost, but a portion would be acceptable.

The National Onion Association is the Onion Authority, representing growers and supporting industry throughout the United States. Go to [www.onions-usa.org](http://www.onions-usa.org)

## Southern Water Rights - National Onion Association

The NOA has completed successful policy work in reference to water rights between the United States and Mexico on the Rio Grande. Mexico has not been in compliance with the 1944 water treaty. Farmers in Texas have not been receiving water needed to grow their crops. The US Government is taking measures to make sure the United States receives its share of water. Please check the details out at:

<https://www.onions-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/PR-US-Mexico-Water.pdf>