Vegetable production
Onions
2002 (Revised)

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Tel. (012) 841 9611
Preparing the land for onions

1. Irrigate the land if it is dry

2. It may be necessary to rip the field

3. Turn up (plough) the soil in the field
4. Disc the field

5. Draw furrows (ridges) in the field

6. The spacing between the rows must be between 20 to 40 cm
Fertilising

1. Apply fertiliser to the soil before planting

2. Use about 6 bags of MAP fertiliser per hectare

3. Use a hoe to cover the fertiliser with soil
1. Lay seedlings down and cover their roots with soil

2. Spacing between the seedlings must be about 5 to 10 cm (size of 1 or 2 matchboxes)

3. Irrigate the field after planting
Topdressing

Apply topdressing 6 weeks after planting

Application:

1 bag UREA per hectare

or

2 bags LAN per hectare
## Pests and diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pest</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thrips</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Endosulfan" /> <img src="image" alt="Decis" /></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downy mildew</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Dithane M45" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>White bulb rot</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Xanbac-D" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Purple blotch</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Dyrene" /></td>
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Harvesting

1. You can harvest onions 180 to 230 days (6 to 8 months) after planting

2. When the leaves are yellow and fall over, the onions are ready for harvesting

3. Put the onions in a dry, ventilated place after harvesting