



Garlic Growers Association of Ontario

Clean Garlic seed, free from nematodes and virus is the single most important issue facing growers in Ontario.

The Garlic Growers Association of Ontario has received funding from the Agricultural Biosecurity Program (ABP) for a two-year project on “Preventative Measures and Management Practices for Stem and Bulb Nematode in Garlic”. Previous to that we have been part of a project to provide clean seed for growers,

1. Determine the extent of stem and bulb nematode infestation in garlic across the province and identify the prominent race(s).
2. Verify that the nematode-free, virus-tested seed production system developed by the SPUD Unit, University of Guelph in 2010 is repeatable and determine the cost of seed.
3. Educate growers on the spread, symptoms, biology and control of this pest including the use of nematode-free seed.

The project to date has sampled 150 growers across the province, who by now should have received notice of the results of their tests. If not please contact Becky Hughes at bhughes@uoguelph.ca or 705-647-8525 ext 222.

The SPUD Unit planted over 12,000 virus-tested, nematode-free garlic plantlets in the screen house in New Liskeard May 9-12 and has 12,000 “clean seed” single-clove bulbs of Music garlic available now. This clean seed will be distributed first to paid up members of the GGAO at a cost of \$0.80 per bulb (clove) in lots of 100 immediately on a first-come, first-paid basis. You may request as many as you like, however the actual amount shipped to you will reflect an even distribution among members. (So if all members request, it will be divided evenly amongst all, but if only 10 request 1200 each then their requests will be totally filled).

**So to book your clean seed for planting this fall you need to contact Al Cowan 519 949 2119 acowan@bmts.com or myself, warren@augustsharvest.com 519 393 5550 and make arrangements to pay by September 13. Then your clean seed lots will be shipped out, along with the clean seed management practice guide. The largest seed will go to the first orders.
Any questions please call or email either of us.**

The final part of the project is a series of workshops held over the fall and spring of 2011/12 to educate growers on the results of the survey, the biology of this pest and its control including how to grow clean seed.

The research team involved in this project include Becky Hughes, Project Lead, SPUD Unit, NLARS, University of Guelph; Michael Celetti, Horticultural Crops Pathologist, OMAFRA; Dr. Qing Yu, Nematologist, AAFC; John Zandstra, Researcher, Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph; Margaret Appleby, IPM Systems Specialist, OMAFRA; and Marion Paibomesai, Vegetable Crops Specialist, OMAFRA.

Stay tuned for further details at www.garlicgrowers.on.ca