

March 8, 2005  
ODA-LG-001/05

**Onion Growers, Shippers and Packers**  
Ontario, OR

Dear Onion Growers, Shippers and Packers,

It is time to be thinking of cull onion disposal again. Our March 15th deadline for cull disposal is coming up soon. As you are aware of, the Onion Maggot Control Order 603-052-0360 for Malheur County requires that all cull or waste onions in Malheur County will be disposed of by a method approved by this control order prior to March 15th each year in order to protect the onion industry from the Onion Maggot.

All cull or waste onions are required to be disposed of, plowed under and covered by 12 inches of onion-free soil by latest March 15th. The Control Order allows one week for cull onions produced **after** the March 15 deadline to be appropriately disposed of.

The Onion Maggot Control Order offers several disposal options:

**(A) Disposal by covering in a dump site** approved by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Culls and onion debris shall be dumped and covered by at least 12 inches of onion-free soil by March 15 each year;

**(B) Disposal by animal feeding:** Culls and onion debris shall be completely removed from feeding areas by March 15 and buried under 12 inches of onion-free soil. Onions tramped into the soil so they cannot be removed shall be plowed to a depth of 12 inches;

**(C) Disposal by chopping or shredding:** Chopped or shredded onion debris that is incapable of sprouting may be returned to the field at a tonnage rate no higher than the DEQ-approved rate of 80 tons per acre and plowed to a depth where no onion parts are exposed on the surface;

**(D) Composting:** All onion debris shall be incorporated into the compost bed and completely covered by 12 inches of onion-free soil;

**(E) Disposal of residue in onion producing fields:** Commercial onion fields where sort out bulbs are left at harvest shall be disked to destroy the bulbs and shall be plowed to a depth of at least 12 inches by March 15 each year. Seed bulbs shall be disposed of in the same manner following the last harvest;

**(F)** If inclement weather prevents plowing, the culls will be **treated with an EPA-labeled insecticide** currently listed in the **PNW Insect Control Handbook** at prescribed intervals until proper disposal occurs.

Your ODA offices in Ontario, 541-889-5274, and La Grande, 541-963-4608, will be happy to assist you in any questions you may have regarding the cull onion disposal.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Helmuth Rogg  
Entomologist  
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

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