



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor
CELIA R. GOULD
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Idaho Onion Growers, Packers and Shippers

FROM: Michael Cooper
Bureau Chief, Division of Plant Industries

DATE: February 25, 2013

SUBJECT: 2013 Cull Onion Disposal and Rule Changes

It is time to be thinking of cull onion disposal again; the March 15th deadline for cull disposal is coming up soon. Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has received a few complaints regarding cull onion disposal. As you are aware, ISDA requires that all cull or waste onions in the state be disposed of, by a method approved by IDAPA 02.06.17, Rules Governing the Disposal of Cull Onions and Potatoes, prior to March 15 of each year in order to protect the onion industry from the Onion Maggot. The pertinent sections of the rule are enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of the ISDA Cull Onion Disposal brochure that provides general guidelines regarding waste or cull onion disposal.

Also, there have been several developments concerning the Oregon and Idaho Onion Maggot and Onion White Rot Rules that you should be aware of.

1) Effective March 1, 2009, Oregon amended their Onion Maggot Rules to establish an enforcement period of March 15 to July 1 of each year. In 2010, Idaho also amended the Rules Governing the Disposal of Cull Onions to include the enforcement period of March 15 to July 1 of each year. Previously, neither Oregon nor Idaho had an end date and the rules had been enforced throughout the growing season.

2) It has come to the attention of ISDA that some of the onion processors are bringing onions from out of state for processing. ISDA has no assurance that these onions are free from Onion White Rot, a fungal disease of onions. While not technically illegal under the Idaho or Oregon Onion White Rot Quarantine Rules, the culls and processing waste from these onion do pose a risk to Idaho and Oregon onion production. I urge you to make every effort to know the origin of any onion culls and waste that you may incorporate into any of your ground used for onion production. Oregon is moving to close this loophole in their Quarantine Rules and Idaho will probably follow suit. While there may not be a prohibition placed the importation of onions for processing, the new rules could strictly dictate the disposal methods.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (208) 332-8620

Enclosure

**IDAPA 02
TITLE 06
CHAPTER 17**

02.06.17 - RULES GOVERNING THE DISPOSAL OF CULL ONIONS AND POTATOES

000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.

This chapter is adopted under the legal authority of Title 22, Chapters 1 and 20, Idaho Code. (3-30-01)

001. TITLE AND SCOPE.

01. **Title.** The title of this chapter is IDAPA 02.06.17, "Rules Governing the Disposal of Cull Onions and Potatoes." (5-3-03)

02. **Scope.** This chapter has the following scope: These rules cover the disposal of cull onions to prevent the spread of the onion maggot (*Delia antiqua*) and disposal of potatoes to prevent the spread of pests and diseases of potatoes. The official citation of this chapter is IDAPA 02.06.17.000 et seq. For example, this Section's citation is IDAPA 02.06.17.001. (3-30-01)

002. WRITTEN INTERPRETATIONS.

There are no written interpretations of these rules. (3-30-01)

003. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL.

There is no provision for administrative appeal before the Department of Agriculture under this chapter. Hearing and appeal rights are pursuant to Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code. (3-30-01)

004. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.

There are no documents incorporated by reference in this chapter. (5-3-03)

005. OFFICE -- OFFICE HOURS -- MAILING ADDRESS AND STREET ADDRESS.

01. **Office Hours.** Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mountain Time, Monday through Friday, except holidays designated by the State of Idaho. (5-3-03)

02. **Mailing Address.** The mailing address for the central office is Idaho State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 790, Boise, Idaho 83701. (5-3-03)

03. **Street Address.** The central office is located at 2270 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, Idaho 83712. (5-3-03)

006. PUBLIC RECORDS ACT COMPLIANCE.

These rules are public records available for inspection and copying at the Department and the State Law Library. (5-3-03)

007. FINDINGS.

The adoption of IDAPA 02.06.17, "Rules Governing the Disposal of Cull Onions and Potatoes," will confer benefits to the general public. The proper disposal of cull onions for the control of onion maggot is essential to the production of high quality onions at reasonable prices, while minimizing pesticide usage. Proper disposal of cull potatoes will reduce the spread or incidence of potato pests and diseases and help to minimize pesticide usage. The proper disposal of cull onions and potatoes will reduce odors and address public complaints. (5-3-03)

008. -- 009. (RESERVED).

010. DEFINITIONS.

The Department adopts the definitions set forth in Section 22-2005, Idaho Code. In addition as used in this chapter: (5-3-03)

01. Cull Onions. Shall refer to those onions that are not marketable or useable for consumption or are generally considered waste, and shall include the residue left in the field from the production of onion seed as well as commercial onions. (5-3-03)

02. Cull Potatoes. Shall refer to those potatoes that are not marketable or useable for consumption or as seed potatoes and shall include the residue left in the field from commercial or seed potato production, or as a result of spoilage while in storage. (5-3-03)

011. -- 049. (RESERVED).

050. REGULATED AREA.

01. Onions. Ada, Canyon, Gem, Payette, Owyhee, and Washington Counties, state of Idaho. (3-30-01)

02. Potatoes. The entire state of Idaho. (3-30-01)

051. -- 059. (RESERVED).

060. REGULATED PRODUCTS.

01. Cull Onions. All cull onions produced as a result of market conditions, the grading process, or as a result of breakdown in storage or sorted out in the field during harvest and bulbs and waste left over from seed production. (4-11-06)

02. Cull Potatoes. All cull potatoes produced as a result of market conditions, the grading process, or as a result of breakdown in storage, or sorted out in the field during harvest and tubers and waste left over from potato seed production. (4-11-06)

061. -- 069. (RESERVED).

070. DISPOSITION OF CULL ONIONS.

All cull onions existing in the control area shall be disposed of by a method approved of in Section 071 of this rule, to prevent sprouting. Disposal of all existing cull onions and debris must be completed prior to March 15th, of each year; provided, however, that in the case of onions sorted on or after March 15th of each year, the cull onions resulting therefrom shall be disposed of within one (1) week after such sorting regardless of the disposal method. (4-11-06)

071. DISPOSAL METHODS.

The intent of Section 071 of the rule is to control the spread of the onion maggot and related onion diseases. All disposal methods listed in Section 071 must be carried out to the extent that control of the regulated pest(s) is achieved in order to be in compliance with this rule. (4-11-06)

01. Disposal by Covering in Dumps or Pits. (7-1-93)

a. Cull onions disposed of by being dumped in pits shall be managed and covered as recommended by the University of Idaho Agricultural Extension Service. (3-30-01)

b. Covering shall be accomplished by March 15th of each year or as provided in Section 070 of this rule. (3-30-01)

02. Disposal by Feeding After March 15th of Each Year. (3-30-01)

a. Sheep or goats shall be fed no more than fifty-three (53) pounds of cull onions per individual animal per day. Cull onions shall be fed from either bunks or by spreading throughout the pasture or feedlot. Cull onions shall not be fed from piles. (3-30-01)

b. Cattle shall be fed a ration containing no more than twenty-five percent (25%) cull onions on a dry matter basis. (3-30-01)

c. Onion debris shall be completely removed from feeding areas and buried under twelve (12) inches or more of onion-free soil by March 15th of each year. (3-30-01)

d. In the case of residues of onion debris two (2) inches or less in depth, or onions tramped into the soil so that they cannot be removed, such areas shall be disked and plowed as deep as possible, and such that all onions and debris are buried under eight (8) inches or more of onion-free soil by March 15th of each year. (4-11-06)

e. Feeding areas and areas where onions are buried shall be treated in the manner set out in Section 071. (3-30-01)

f. Cattle and sheep being finished for market or dairy cattle shall not be fed forage or grains grown on feeding areas treated in the manner set forth in Section 071. (3-30-01)

03. Disposal by Composting. Cull onions being composted shall be covered by twelve (12) inches or more of onion-free soil or composting material until the onions have turned to compost. (3-30-01)

04. Disposal of Residue in Onion Producing Fields. (7-1-93)

a. Commercial onion fields where sort-out bulbs are left at harvest shall be disked and plowed as deep as possible, and such that all onions and debris are buried under eight (8) inches or more of onion-free soil by March 15th of each year. (4-11-06)

b. Following final seed harvest, seed bulbs shall be disked and plowed as deep as possible, and such that all onions and debris are buried under eight (8) inches or more of onion-free soil by March 15th of each year. (4-11-06)

05. Disposal by Chopping or Shredding. Cull onions that have been chopped or shredded to the point that they are incapable of sprouting, shall be disked and plowed as deep as possible, and such that all onions and debris are buried under eight (8) inches or more of onion-free soil by March 15th of each year. (4-11-06)

06. Disposal by Spreading. Cull Onions may be disposed of by being spread on agricultural fields destined to be planted to a crop other than onions provided the onions are disked and plowed as deep as possible, and such that all onions and debris are buried under eight (8) inches or more of onion-free soil. (4-11-06)

072. INCLEMENT WEATHER.

If inclement weather prevents disposal by the methods in Subsections 071.01 through 071.06, culls shall be treated with an EPA-labeled insecticide at prescribed intervals as recommended by the University of Idaho Agricultural Extension Service until proper disposal as prescribed in Subsections 071.01 through 071.06 can be carried out. (3-30-01)

073. (RESERVED).

074. NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.

Any person or entity delivering cull onions for disposal in the area regulated for cull onion disposal shall provide written notification to the recipient of those cull onions advising the recipient of this rule and the recipient's obligations for the disposal of the cull onions under this rule. If the recipient is not the property owner, written notification shall also be made to the owner of the property where the onions are to be disposed of. Failure to make such notification in writing is a violation of this rule. (4-11-06)