

## **Uni-B<sup>0</sup>23 (XN-102) vs. Auxigro on Onions in Idaho, 2003**

Research by Tim Vargas, Varco, Inc.

UNI-B<sup>0</sup> 23 and AUXIGRO<sup>®</sup> were applied twice to yellow sweet Spanish onions at the rate of 4.0 oz. of product per acre starting when bulbs averaged 2.25 inches in diameter. The second application was made a little over 3 weeks later and approximately 40 days prior to harvest. There were no noticeable signs of plant growth being affected at the time the second application was made so the percentage of stems bent over at the bulb neck was estimated for each plot in the event the treatments may have influenced this naturally occurring plant growth stage. Bulbs were harvested and graded out by culls, mediums, jumbos, colossal, and super colossal.

An analysis of the percent bent over plants as measured on August 5 showed no significant differences between any of the treatments. Overall yield was increased with both UNI-B<sup>0</sup> 23 and AUXIGRO<sup>®</sup> but only UNI-B<sup>0</sup> 23 showed a significant increase over the control. An analysis of the grade breakdown showed the majority of this yield increase was due to an increase in the number of colossal bulbs along with a decrease in the number of culls compared to the control. And, in fact, UNI-B<sup>0</sup> 23 showed a significant increase in colossal bulbs compared to AUXIGRO<sup>®</sup>. UNI-B<sup>0</sup> 23 also showed a significant yield increase in both the overall and useable yield categories compared to the control.

Results indicate UNI-B<sup>0</sup> 23 may enhance yield of dry bulb onions when applied in a similar fashion as AUXIGRO<sup>®</sup>. However additional research and trial locations are necessary to completely assess the long term performance of this product in dry bulb onion production systems.

Alan S. Wicks, Ph.D.  
Director of R&D  
Plant Nutrient Enhancing Technologies Group  
EXCEL Bldg Complex  
Northwest Agricultural Products  
Pasco, WA 99301



