Table 8. Evaluation of plant spacing for reducing bacterial bulb decay in small-scale fresh market yellow onions (cv. Nebula), Interlaken, NY 2009: net economic return.

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| ***At harvest, per 100 feet of bed:*** |
| **Plant Spacing** | **% bacterial bulb decay (by weight)** | **Variable Pricing1** | **Uniform Pricing2** |
| **Planting density (inch2 /bulb)** | **No. rows /bed** | **Plant spacing (inch)** | **No. plants** | **Small $0.20/lb** | **Med $0.40/lb** | **Jumbo $0.50/lb** | **Colossal $0.55/lb** | **Cost of transplants4** | **Net economic return** | **Gross $0.90/lb** | **Cost of transplants4** | **Net economic return** |
| 24 inch2 | 4 | 4 | 1200 | 13.3 b3 | $2.00 | $14.40 | $165 | $71.50 | $24 | $229 | $459 | $40.50 | $419 |
| 32 inch2 | 3 | 4 | 900 | 13.8 b | $0.40 | $4.00 | $95 | $148.50 | $18 | $230 | $414 | $30.38 | $386 |
| **48 inch2 standard** | 4 | 8 | 600 | 37.3 a | $0.00 | $2.40 | $25 | $148.50 | $12 | $164 | $297 | $20.25 | $277 |
| 60 inch2 | 4 | 10 | 480 | 41.5 a | $0.20 | $0.00 | $10 | $110 | $9.60 | $111 | $198 | $16.20 | $182 |
| 80 inch2 | 3 | 10 | 360 | 53.6 a | $0.00 | $0.40 | $5 | $71.50 | $7.20 | $70 | $144 | $12.15 | $132 |
| **1Variable pricing**: according to PA Simply Sweet program, cannot sell more than 30% weight as small and medium size. **2Uniform Pricing:** According to Interlaken road side stand prices, all grades except small are marketable. 3Numbers in a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different, Fisher’s Protected LSD test, p <0.05. 4**cost of transplants:** NY **-** $1.35 for 40 plants or $0.03375 per plant (plugs); PA - $0.02 per plant (bare roots from Texas). |