

By Karen Gentry
Managing Editor

After comparison of drip, sprinkler and furrow irrigation of onions in Oregon and Idaho's Treasure Valley, sub-surface drip came out on top.

These tests were done in the early 1990s on sites that didn't irrigate perfectly, according to Clint Shock, superintendent of the Oregon State University (OSU) Malheur Agricultural Experiment Station in Ontario, Ore. Treasure Valley includes about 750,000 acres of irrigated land within a 50-mile radius of Ontario, Ore. (East-Central Oregon) and four counties of Idaho.

"The main advantage (of drip irrigation) is you can irrigate a field absolutely uniformly, so you can apply fertilizer absolutely uniformly and with great efficiency," Shock said.

"The grade of the onion comes out really nice. You can get a really uniform crop so the whole field is all the same," he said.

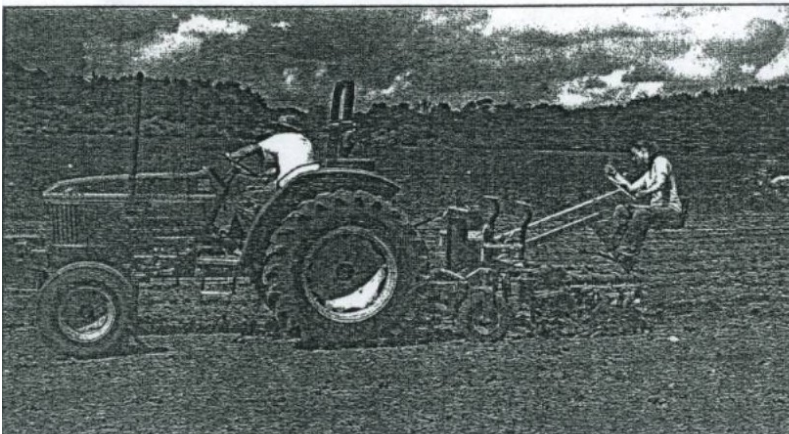
He said research also looked at irrigation criteria for drip-irrigated onions, nitrogen fertil-



Clint Shock shows onion State University. (Photo)

izer rates for drip-irrigated onions.

OSU researchers focus on the ideal placement, moisture and fertilizer to the root zone. Drip in place and protects onion leaves lessens



Workers use the Star-Hoe, a piece of equipment that Tim Laird said could make it easier and cheaper for farmers using sustainable agriculture to do their jobs. Laird has been using a Star-Hoe for three years and said he has seen a decrease in the number of hours spent on weeding.

Weed control equipment aids Northeast grower

By Kim Warren
Staff Writer

Tim Laird is no mechanic. And with a grant from the Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education (SARE) program, he's hoping to help other farmers rely less on their mechanics skills and focus more on their farming.

SARE annually awards grants to growers who are looking to study new ways of farming that could help other growers in their area. Laird's project, "Comparative

Study of Weed Management Tools in Vegetables and Berries: Old and New," will look at some of the new equipment in sustainable vegetable growing that could potentially decrease the amount of time—and money—spent on weed management equipment.

"I've been intrigued by some of the tools—weeding tools—that have been coming out of Europe for a while now," Laird, who is the crop manager at

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