

Low Tunnel Trials: Onions

Two winters: 2011-12 and 2012-13

Photos to accompany research report

UMass Extension Vegetable Program

Winter Production and Sales Project

Northeast SARE 2010-2014

Low Tunnel Crops: Onions

Variety trial overview

	2011-12	2012-13
Seed Date	18-Aug	16-Aug
TP Date	11-Oct	9-Oct
Cover On	27-Oct	26-Oct
Plastic On	17-Nov	26-Oct
Plastic Off	21-Mar	5-Mar
Cover Off	21-Mar	17-Apr
Harv	19-Apr	22-May



Low Tunnel Onion Planting Methods, 2011



**Raised Bed w/ black plastic & drip
6" spacing
Metal conduit hoops (10" long, 5" apart)
1.25 oz row cover + 6 ml GH plastic**



Photos taken March 8, 2012



- Regrowth is early and strong
- Weeds in holes (better than bare ground!)
- 2011-2012: onion thrips overwintered & thrived



Photos taken just after *both* covers removed March 21, 2012

One week later - March 27: wind injury



Wind did not cause serious damage
Two-step cover removal gives longer
protection without overheating

Low Tunnel Crops: onions

Varieties and bolting	
2011-12	% Bolting
Bridger	0
Candy	28
Top Keeper	0
Keepsake	0
Winter White	
Bunching	0
2012-13	
Bridger	3
Copra	73
Patterson	79
Pontiac	55



2012-2013 Onion Trial

- Colder spring
- Slower growth
- Later harvest

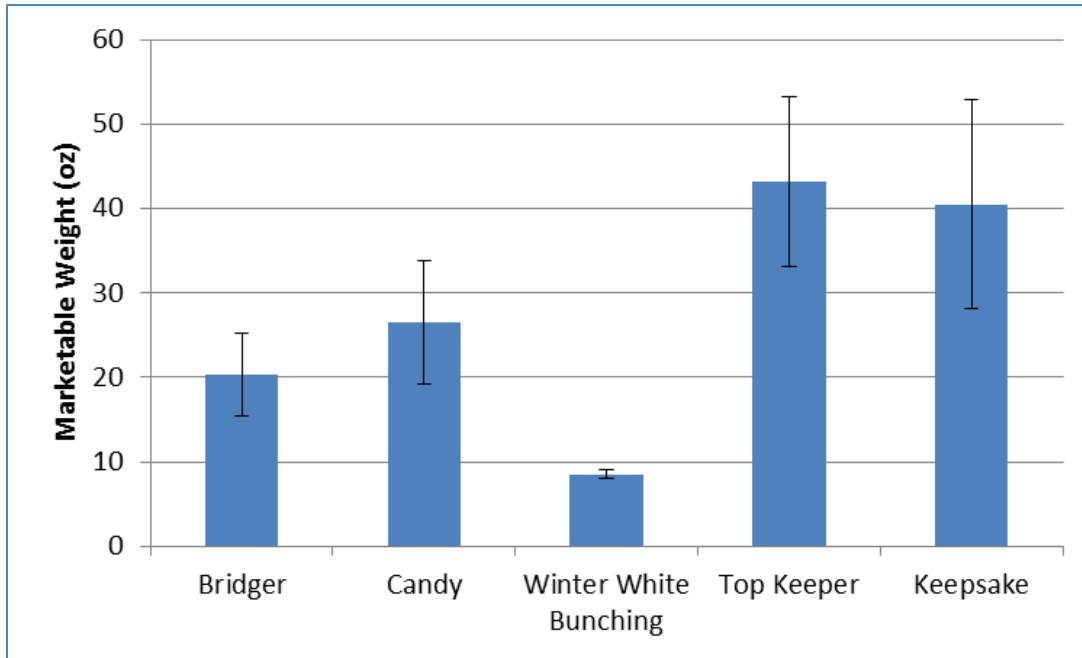


2012 harvest - fresh green onions for early markets - April 19 (scallions 4/10)

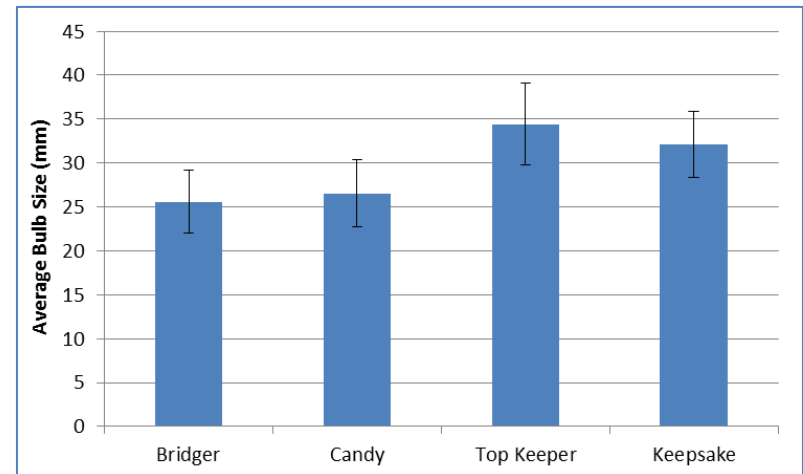


- Market demand is strong

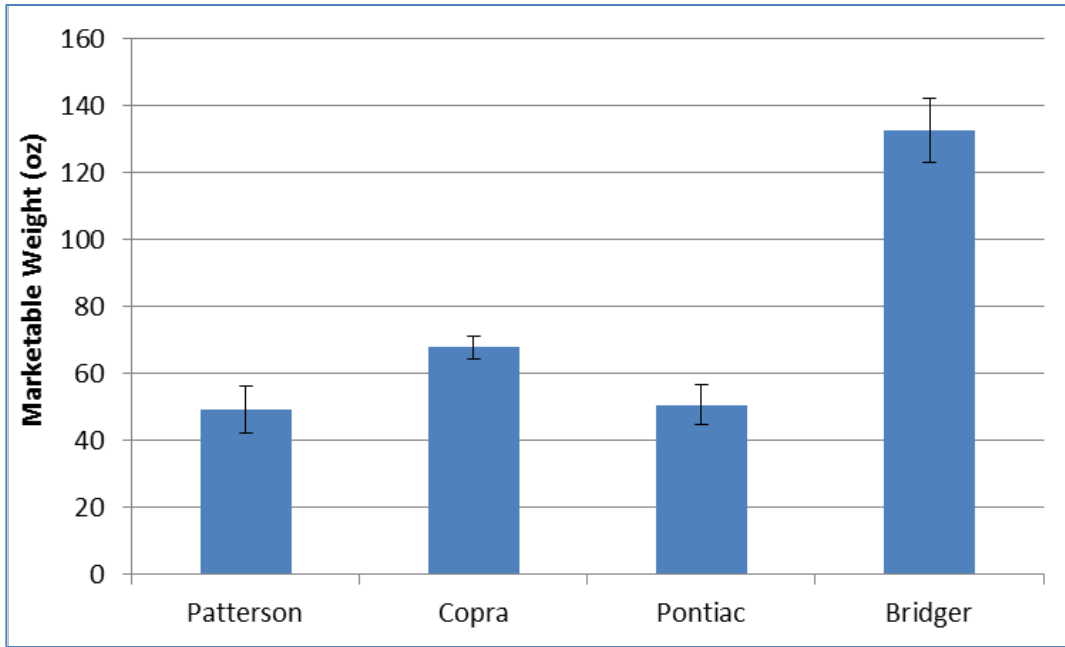
Onion Harvest 2012 (April 19)



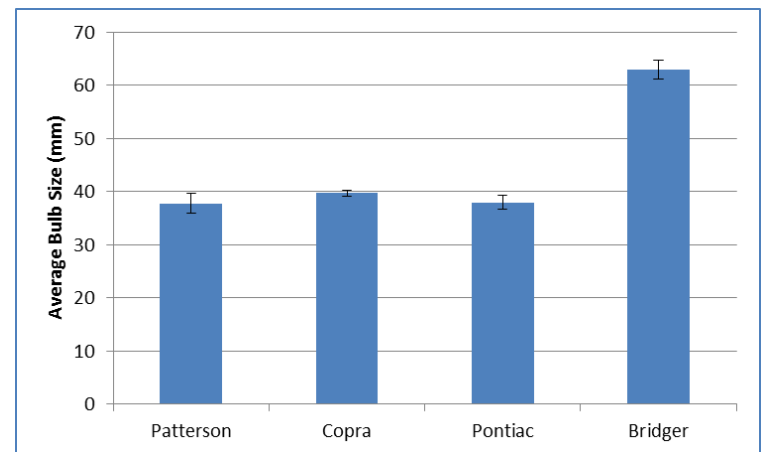
Top Keeper and Keepsake had highest yield and bulb size



Onion Harvest 2013 (May 22)



Bridger had highest weight
and bulb size



UNH Low Tunnel Onion Trials

Seed in August

Transplant in late Sept-Oct

Covered Oct-April

Harvest green April

or as bulbs May – June

2 years



Photos by : Becky Sideman, UNH Cooperative Extension
Reports:

www.extension.umass.edu

winter production, storage and sales

www.nevfc.org

Proceedings and powerpoints,
Dec 2013 conference