

DEFENDER

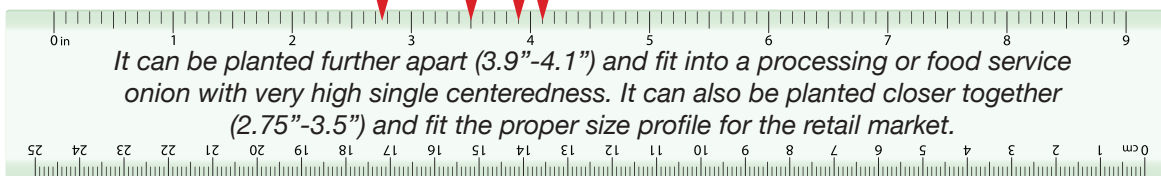
Maximizing Success

118-120 LONG DAY STORAGE ONION

Defender is a great variety for processing and food service. It singles at a very high rate and is on the approved processors list. It consistently produces jumbo and colossal bulbs with very uniform deep globe shape. The bulbs are very firm with dark retentive scales for maximum flexibility in marketing to either processing or retail.



Retail  Processing



Plant Date

Defender can be planted in the traditional space for long day onions between late March and early April.



Fertility

The standard rate of NPK and trace minerals is acceptable for this variety. One thing to note about Defender is that it has a vigorous root system that gives it the ability to make more use of what is there for fertility. As with all onion varieties, over-fertilizing, especially with Nitrogen can bring other issues such as more thrip and disease pressure brought on by succulent tissue in the leaves.



Weed Control

Standard control of broad leaf weeds needs to be managed carefully with Defender as the glossy leaf and lack of wax on the leaf surface tends to increase absorption of these chemicals and damage can look more severe. Spraying during the warmth of the day and following label directions are good guidelines for Defender. Make the most out of spraying weeds that are small and full label requirements are not as necessary.



Fungicide

Defender has a glossy leaf and has a thinner wax surface on the exterior of the leaf. It will be necessary to treat this variety with the standard practice of applying a fungicide and protecting the newly formed leaves every 12-14 days. Staying on this schedule, especially late in the season, and finalizing the last application with a good broad-spectrum fungicide will ensure that the product in storage will be of high quality and easily sorted.



Harvest

Follow normal harvest procedures and lift when onion top fall is greater than 50%. Be sure to let the bulbs cure in the field in dry environmental conditions for a period of 10-14 days before loading the bulbs for storage. An onion is dried correctly if the neck is tight and outer scales are uniform in color and dry to the touch.



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