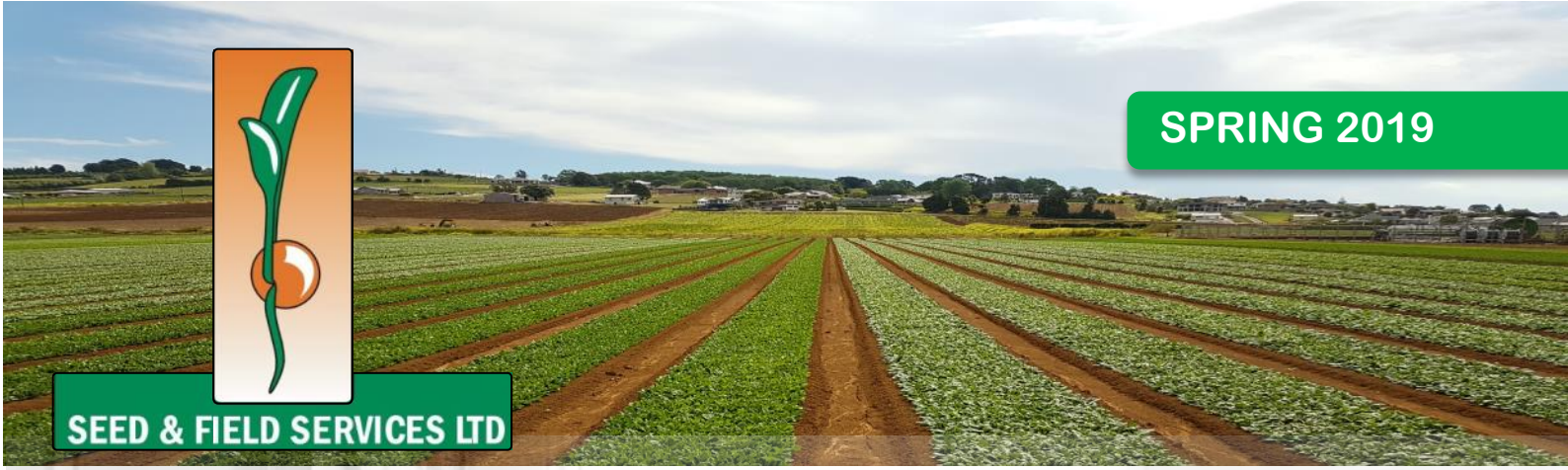


SEED & FIELD SERVICES LTD

SPRING 2019

NEWSLETTER

Welcome

Thankyou for reading our Spring 2019 Newsletter.

What started as a good run into winter seemed to even up a bit with the recent unsettled weather. Looking at the rainfall figures, based on the Metservice site recorded from Auckland Airport, rainfall for 2019 to the end of July has been 468mm, comparing to last year at the same time we were at 844mm, the 10 year historical average being 644mm. The expectation from mother nature would even the numbers up again at some stage.

In May of this year Andrew Culley and I visited onion growing regions in Ontario and New York State. I have included some photos on the next couple of pages. The focus of the visit was, in particular, to look at their approaches to the control of Onion Smut and other onion diseases. We spent two days with Mary Ruth McDonald (Station Supervisor) and Kevin Vander Kooi (Research Technician) at the University of Guelph Muck Crops Research Station. A lot of recent research had been focussed on the control of Onion Smut in the region, where losses of onions to smut can be in excess of 70% if chemical controls (seed treatment or in furrow treatment) are not used.

On the back of Industry and Government Funded research work completed at the station, new chemical seed treatments have recently gained registration for use on onions in Canada and proving to be very effective, reducing the reliance on traditional in furrow granular chemical application.

At Seed and Field we have been continually undertaking trial work (unfortunately without the outside funding!) looking at new seed chemical treatments for onions—the result of which in recent times contributed to the registration of Illevo Prime as an onion seed treatment for the control of white rot. This has now replaced some old chemistry that had been used for years and was no longer effective. We continue to focus on seed treatment additives for the control onion smut, which for onion growers has the potential to be devastating as it can be in other growing regions.

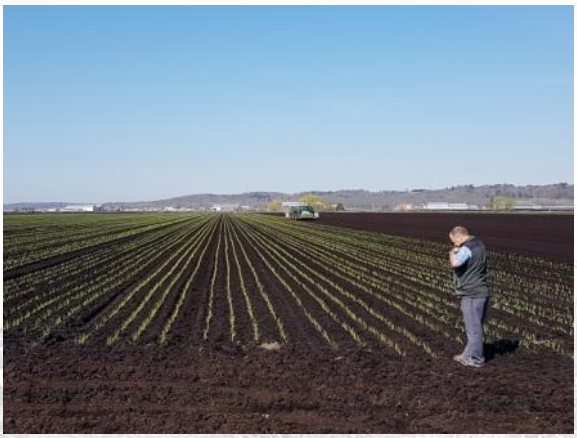
Phil Picot

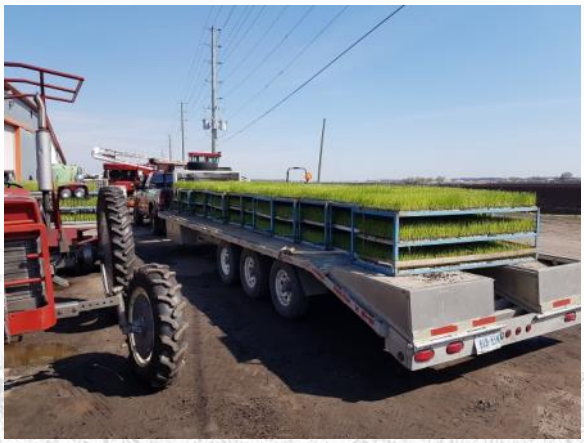
Canada/USA visit May 2019

University of Guelph Muck Crop research Station is situated in the heart of the Holland March area, Ontario, Canada. The marsh consist of an area of 7,000 acres of muck (drained swamp) soils that are 70—80% organic matter., and produce around 40% of Canadas onions, as well as a range of other crops including carrots, beets, celery and brassicas.

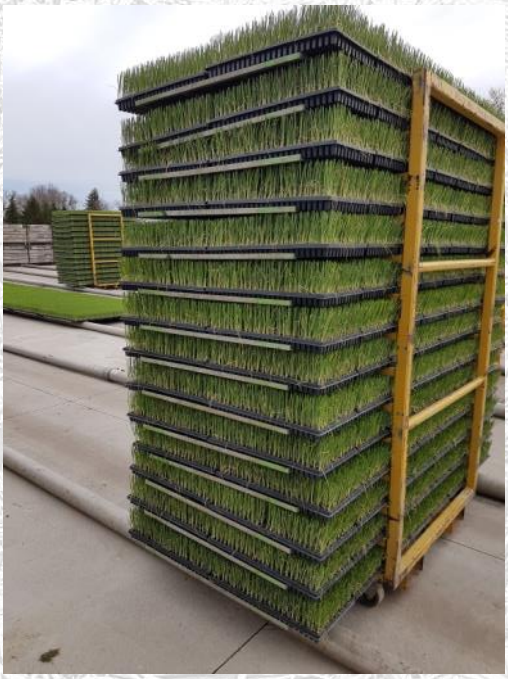
Pictured left are Mary Ruth McDonald and Kevin Vander Kooi.

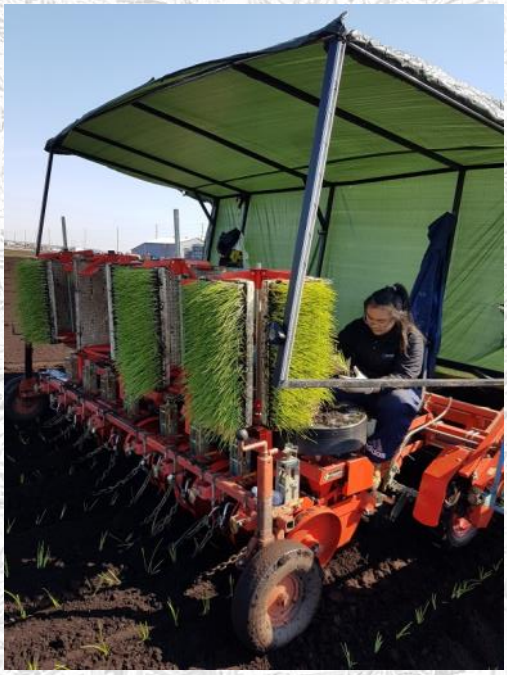
Holland Marsh, Ontario



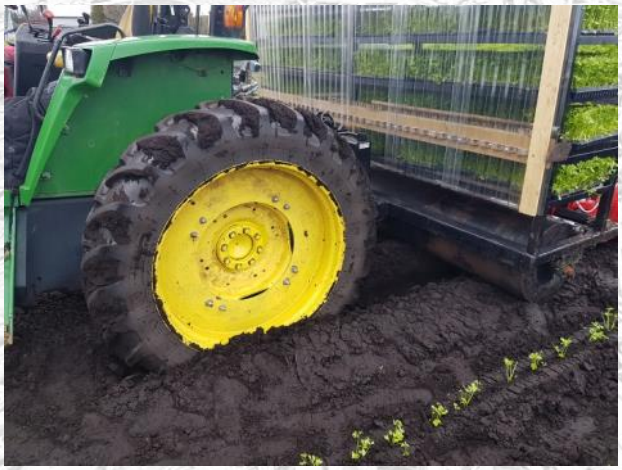


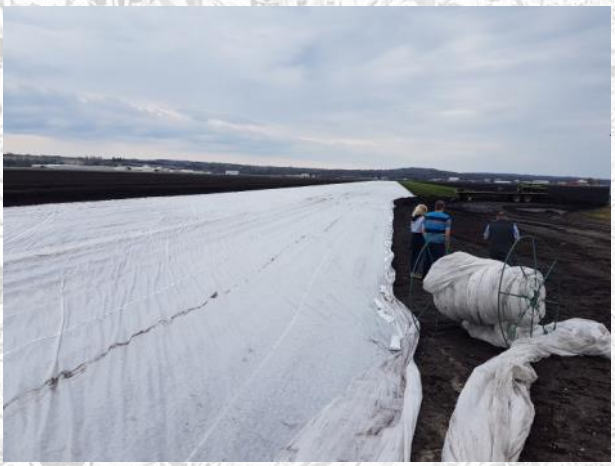
The first of the onion transplanting for spring had just got underway the day we arrived . This was about 2 weeks later than usual due to the weather. This particular grower produced all his own transplants in plastic houses over winter, using a wood fired heater to heat the plastic houses. The growers have a short window for transplanting and direct seeding onions – a six week period from Mid April to end of May. Onions produced are mostly for domestic consumption and with storage are able to achieve 12 month supply.





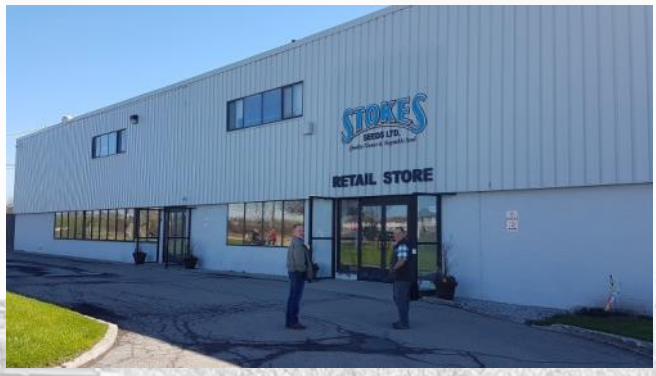
Transplants were raised mainly in commercial nurseries. Seeded either 3 or 4 plants per cell in a 288 cell tray. Transplant populations were around 205,000 to 225,000 per acre. Cells were drenched in general with Lorsban prior to planting for Onion Maggot control. These onions should be ready for harvest late July.

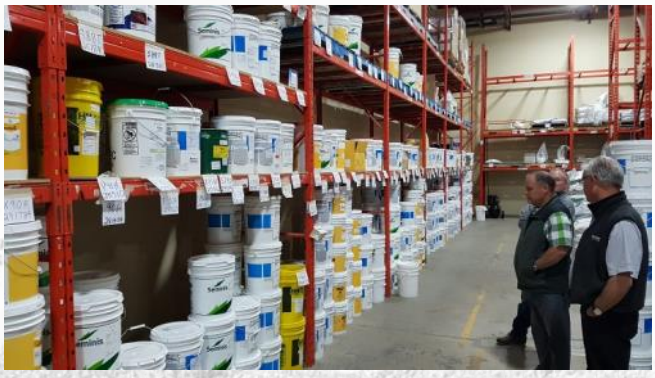




First of the celery being transplanted (just!) . Transplants were being covered with Fleece for protection and early production.

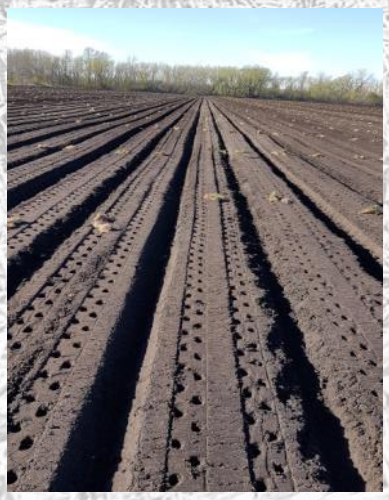
Stokes Seeds—Niagara –on-the-Lake





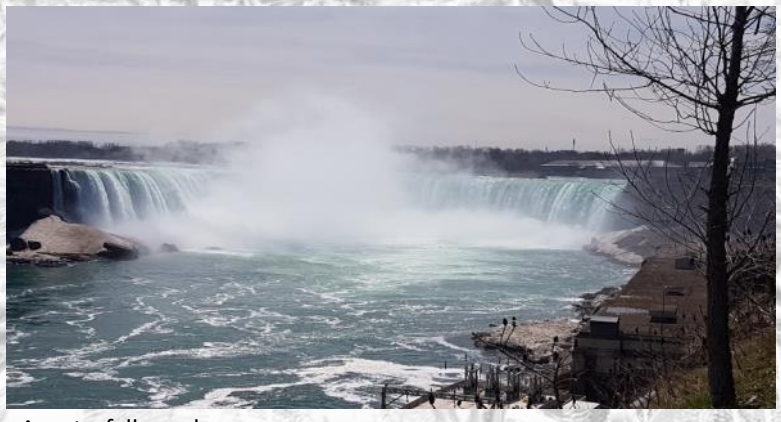
Stokes Seeds—Niagara on the Lake, Ontario—giant version of Seed and Field really. Stokes Seeds are probably the largest onion dealer in Eastern USA, and cover all of Canada. All of their onion seed pelleting is processed over the border in the US (Nebraska and California) and freighted up to Canada, meaning for them long lead in times are required from ordering to grower delivery. As a consequence large volumes of seed are held on the shelf , a lot of this seed is primed. 80% of onion grown in Quebec are primed, with about 30% of the onion seed used is primed for the rest of Canada.

Elba—New York State



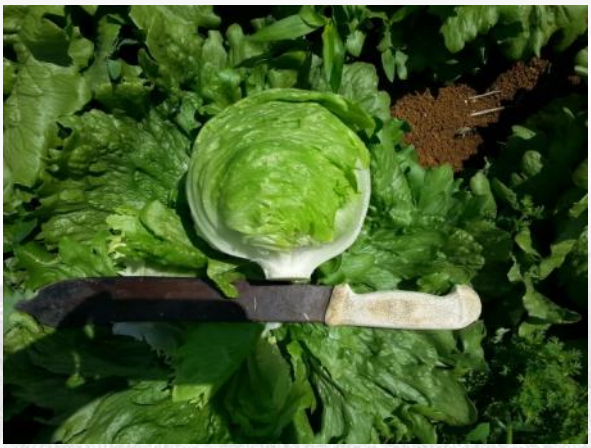
Bare root transplanting of Onions in the Elba muck soil growing region, New York State. We were hosted by Ron Garton (Seminis Product Development Rep) and Christy Hoepting (Extension Vegetable Specialist, Cornell University, USA). The property we visited "Torrey F arms" grow around 800 acres of transplanted onions, and a similar area of direct seeded. Plants are all handplanted at a population of around 120,000 plants per acres, aiming for early Jumbo or "Colossal" onions for processing. There are 7 growers left in the Elba area now (used to be 40). Transplants are grown in Arizona and freighted up. Barley is often seeded between the beds to protect the plants from the wind.

The Sights



A waterfall nearby

LETTUCE GREEN MOON



Mid summer Iceberg lettuce from Clause with outstanding uniformity and high cut out percentages.

Green Moon has been trialled in Pukekohe for 3 years now, and in the summer of 2018 performed exceptionally in the heat.

Green Moon is slow bolting, has a dark green colour with an upright frame habit.

Harvest best from February to mid April

GREEN BEANS – HICKOK

Hickok is a dwarf bean variety that has become a market standard over a very short period.

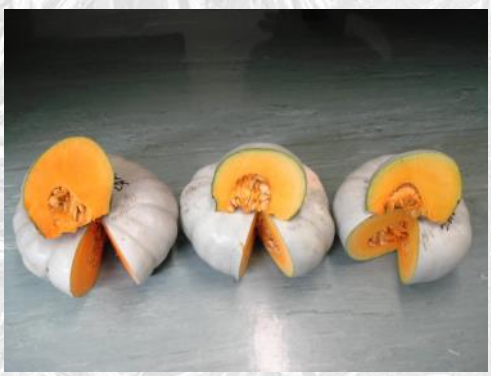
Hickok's outstanding feature is it's attractive dark green shiny pod with a strong plant, and is suitable for late spring. Autumn and summer production.

Hickok bean has also performed well under fleece for those growers wanting to target the early bean market

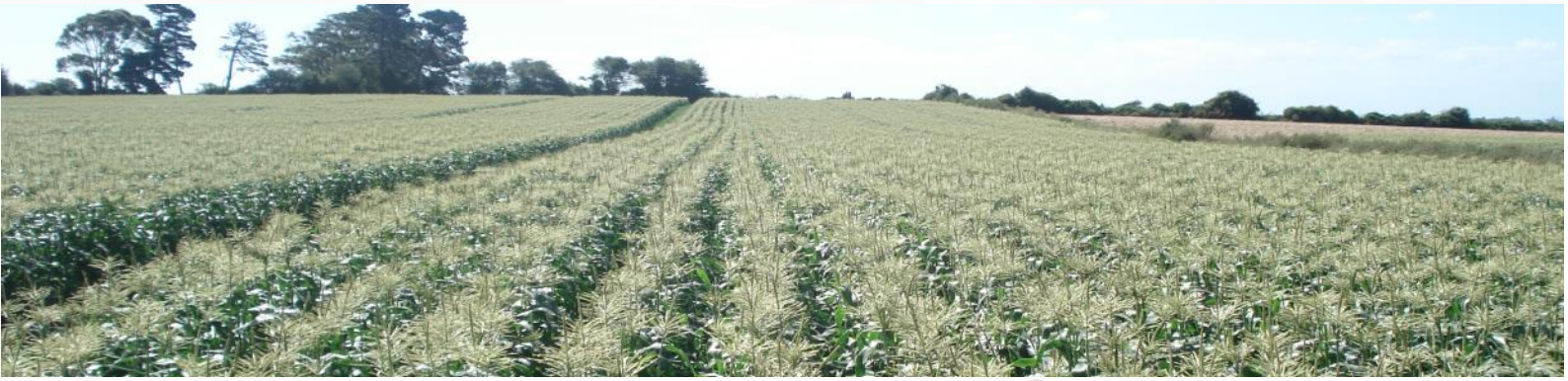
PUMPKIN

Nelson—early maturing bush type pumpkin that has become the market leader for early crown production. Nelson produces medium sized fruit and has exceptional flavour and internal colour for an early variety.

Minaray—(formerly called Atlas) . New variety trialled over the last few seasons with good results. Minaray is a great option for growers wanting a smaller sized fruit compared to Sampson.



Sampson—market standard for a number of years due to the varieties excellent yield potential, long term storage and outstanding internal colour for the cut pumpkin market.



SWEETCORN

Cumberland—Vigorous, early maturing, bi-colour sweet corn with good cob fill. Nice short plant with good attachment and good eating quality. Cobs can grow up to 18cm in length.

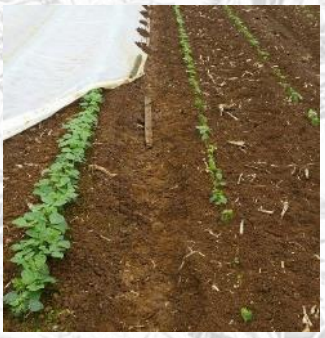
Harvest early/main season

EX08705788—Main season bi-colour sweet corn offering large sized cobs. Nice strong plant and cob fill with good husk tip cover. Medium time to mature and has good eating qualities! Great crate filler with cobs typically 20cm+ long.

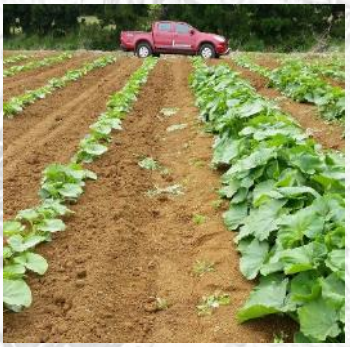
Main season harvest

CROP COVERS

- Fleece is used mainly to control temperature for bringing crop maturity forward, and protection from frost.
- It must be laid tight like a bedsheet and will stretch as the crop grows. It is best secured with soil or sand-bags.
- Will last for 1—2 seasons dependent on conditions
- Both fungicides and herbicides can be sprayed through Fleece but the Fleece must be completely dry for it to work.
- Fleece thickness is measured by weight (grams per square metre). Standard roll sizes available ex SFS in Pukekohe are 12.25met or 12.75 met wide x 250 met long with Fleece weights 22 gm/sq metre.



In the pictures above we can see the results at establishment from early sown beans covered with 19gm sq met Fleece. These beans were seeded early September and the rows on the left covered, next to the right rows that remained uncovered. The covered beans were harvested 2 weeks earlier than the uncovered and comparative yields were 76gms per plant under Fleece compared to 29.6gms per plant in the uncovered row.



Early pumpkin grown under fleece (right row) versus uncovered (left row)

SPRING BRASSICA SOWING GUIDE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Cauliflower												
Summerlove												
Highfield												
Nova												
Cabbage												
Burlesque												
Lambada												
Red Baron												
Superba (Red)												
Broccoli												
Koros												
Kanga												
Kolya												

SPRING LETTUCE SOWING GUIDE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Iceberg												
Green Moon												
Albanas												
Oriola												

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