



# EURONION

## Informing and co-ordinating European Bulb Onion Production

### EURONION

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### Euronion Newsletter Germany

In Germany the weather circumstances so far have caused challenges for the onion producers. This year late sowings due to the long winter have been characteristic for almost all growing regions. Most growers reported of a late sowing at the beginning of April. Then a long hot and dry period has followed in most areas.

Mainly in the Northern and Eastern parts of Germany the drought is becoming a problem. There was a high rain deficit in May in these regions. If irrigation was possible, it was used often and very early. Occasionally severe weather (thunderstorms with intensive rainfall) has damaged the crop and muddied the soil. The slightly reduced crop of winter sown onions develops mainly well.

Like in previous years the German onion association "Fachverband Deutsche Speisezwiebel e.V." and AMI analyzed the sales of onion seed for the spring sown varieties. In previous years the connection between sales of seeds and sown surface was very close. Since seed sales decreased about 3 % in 2018, acreage of summer sown onions will probably decline in the same range. The inquiry does not include winter sown onions and set onions.

For many years the production of red onions was relatively insignificant in Germany. But already last year the surface increased obviously, 2018 this tendency carries on. Seed sales of red varieties have increased by 27 % compared to last year. Meanwhile the share of red onions has reached 8 % of the whole area of summer sown onions. Compared to our neighboring countries this share is not extraordinary, but in Germany a high level like this has never occurred before.

Sales of organic seed have increased by 8 %, the share of organic onions has reached 5 % of whole surface of summer sown onions.

But more important than the change of acreage will be the change of yield. Up to now it is not possible to estimate the yield, we are expecting in general usual amounts. Especially unpredictable extreme weather conditions could lead to losses. The weather of the next three months will have an important influence on yield and net amounts available for the market.

At the beginning of June, the onion fields presented very differently. The winter sown onions fell over, so they are ready for harvesting. The downy mildew could be stopped.

The development of the spring sown onions is very different, sometimes they have 5-6 leaves, sometimes only 3-4 leaves.



In some cases the rows of the fields show gaps. It was expected, that this is all due to the wireworm, but this is not true. Partly, we have problems with thrips.

In one red onion field we find fusarium oxysporum or solani in a very early stage.

**From AMI GmbH and Fachverband Deutsche Speisezwiebel e.V., 18th June 2018**

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