Yellow, white, and red/purple onions grow very well in Texas home gardens. Green onions may be eaten fresh or chopped and added to salads. Bulb onions may be sliced and used on sandwiches or dipped in batter and fried as onion rings. Although onions are a source of vitamins A and C, they are used mostly as a flavoring in other food dishes.

Varieties

The varieties of onions that grow best in Texas are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short day (11–12-hour day length)</th>
<th>Yellow: Chula Vista, Cougar, Jaguar, Legend, Linda Vista, Mercedes, Prowler, Safari, Sweet Sunrise, TX 1015Y</th>
<th>White: Cirrus, Marquesa, TX Early White</th>
<th>Red: Red Bone, Rio Santiago, Sakata Red</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate day (12–13-hour day length)</td>
<td>Yellow: Caballero, Cimarron, Riviera, Utopia, Yula</td>
<td>White: Alabaster, Mid Star, Sierra Blanca, Spano</td>
<td>Red: Fuego</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long day (14–16-hour day length)</td>
<td>Yellow: Armada, Capri, Durango, El Charo, Ole, Seville, Sweet Perfection, Valdez, Vaquero, Vega</td>
<td>White: Blanco Duro, Sterling</td>
<td>Red: Tango</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Site selection

Onions grow best in full sunlight and well-drained soils.

Soil preparation

Work the garden soil only when it is dry enough not to stick to garden tools. Before seeding or transplanting, work the soil 8 to 10 inches deep.

Remove all rocks and trash from the soil; then break up the remaining clods and rake the soil smooth.

Planting

Onions are a cool-season crop and can stand temperatures well below freezing. They may be planted from seeds, from small bulbs called sets, or from transplants.

Seeding costs the least but takes longer before onions are ready. When seeding onions for bulbs, plant them ¼ inch deep during October through December. Place the seeds 1 inch apart. When the plants are about 6 inches high, thin them...
larger plants and bigger bulbs (Fig. 2). Each leaf forms a ring in the onion bulb. More leaves means more rings and larger bulbs.

Use about ½ cup of fertilizer for each 10 feet of onion row. Scatter the fertilizer evenly between the rows. Water the onions after adding the fertilizer.

**Insects**

Onions have few insect problems. However, thrips, which are very tiny insects, may be found between the center leaves.

Many insecticides are available at garden centers for homeowner use. Sevin is a synthetic insecticide; organic options include sulfur and Bt-based insecticides.

**Diseases**

Diseases may be a problem on onions. Brown leaf tips or brown spots on the middle and lower parts of leaves may be caused by plant diseases.

Sulfur also has fungicidal properties and helps control many diseases. Neem oil and other fungicides are also available for use.

Before using a pesticide, read the product label. Always follow cautions, warnings, and directions.
main stem begins to get weak and fall (Fig. 3). Pull the plants out of the soil. Leave them lying in the garden for 1 to 2 days to dry. Then remove the tops and roots and let them keep drying in baskets or boxes.

**Storing**

Store onions in a refrigerator crisper or in a dry, airy place such as in a wire net in the garage or carport.

**Acknowledgments**

This publication was revised from earlier versions written by Tom Longbrake, former Extension Horticulturist.