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# **ONION/LEEK Descriptor Form**

1. (Form adapted by *Seeds of Diversity Canada* from the *International Board of Plant Genetic Research* descriptor forms for *The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security.)*

Please observe several plants in the same bed/row. Please use a separate form for each variety.

*If you cannot answer any of these questions, just leave them blank*

For questions asking for averages, please take 10 measurements from different plants. See chart on last page.

**Species name** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Variety name** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **[ ] Variety name is unknown**

**Observer** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Location** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Population size** How many seeds did you plant in total? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Germination rate** What percent of the seeds germinated? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Final Population** How many plants did you harvest seeds from at the end of the 2nd year? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Dates (First Year)**

Date when you sowed the seeds: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date when you transplanted the seeds: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date when 50% of the seeds germinated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rogueing for Seed Production**

Rogueing should be done periodically throughout the season especially:

* At the seedling stage for lack of vigor
* As plants grow for off-type foliage
* At flowering for off-type flowers
* At fruiting for off-type fruits
* At harvest for ability to mature fruit/dry down

***\*The best time to rogue for off-types is before flowers start to appear. After flowers appear rogueing should focus more on fruits and seeds***

**Year 1**

**Early/Mid Season**

Roughly how many plants were removed after rogueing for seedling vigor? Typically remove about 10% of weakest seedlings and any seedlings showing signs of disease after germination.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (# plants removed) or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ % of plants removed

What kind of onion would you call this?

Dry bulb onion Shallot Japanese bunching onion/welsh onion Other



What colour are the leaves?

light green yellow green green grey green dark green bluish green

purplish-green

What direction do the leaves grow, in general?

prostrate or spreading horizontally intermediate erect vertically

When you cut a leaf, what is inside? leaf is hollow leaf is solid

**Late Season / Plant Maturity**

What is the average length of the longest leaf on a fully developed plant? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

(If the plant is bolting, do not measure the flower stalk)

What is the average width of the longest leaf on a fully developed plant? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

Please describe how densely the leaves are formed together? (Applies to Leeks)

  

Low Medium High

To what degree does cracking occur in the foliage?

Weak Medium Strong

What is the degree of leaf waxiness?

Weak Medium Strong

What is the average length of a shaft, measured from the base to first splitting leaf? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

**Bulbs**

What is the average diameter of a mature bulb? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

What is the average length of a mature bulb (for leeks measure the white part of the stalk)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

What colour is the bulb skin?

white yellow yellow and light brown light brown

brown dark brown green light violet

dark violet

What colour is the bulb flesh?

white cream green and white violet and white

What is the shape of a mature dried bulb?

   

Flat Flat globe Rhomboid Broad oval

  

Globe Broad elliptic Ovate (elongated oval)

 

Spindle High top

What is the overall uniformity in the bulb shape?

Uniform Variable Highly Variable

*Cut a few bulbs in cross-section. The center layers are called the "heart", and although most varieties have only one, some have more.*

How many hearts do these onions have?

single heart 2-3 hearts more than 3 hearts

**Year 2**

**Storage quantity** How many roots did you save for re-planting? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Overwintering** How did you choose to vernalize your leeks? Cold storage Field

**Dates**

Date when you re-planted the crop: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date when the first flowers opened: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date when the first fruits ripened: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date when the 90% of the plant were ready to be picked for seeds: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Flowers**

*This section is for onions that produce true flowers. Some onions and leeks produce topsets (clusters of tiny onion bulbs) which are not flowers - make sure that you know the difference between a flower and a topset.*

Does this onion produce a flower? Yes No

What colour is the flower? white pink violet other

What colour are the anthers (pollen bearing structures that extend up from the open flowers)?

blue cream green orange purple white yellow mix

**Seeds**

What is the total weight of seeds harvested from planted population? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_g

**Disease**

Are there any signs of disease on the plants or fruit? (if so please take a picture and include a brief description)

Yes (picture) No

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Based on your knowledge and growing experience please rate this variety on the following characteristics on a scale from 1-5 (1 being very poor, 5 being excellent)**

**Productivity 1 2 3 4 5**

**Uniformity 1 2 3 4 5**

**Flavour 1 2 3 4 5**

**Disease resistance 1 2 3 4 5**

**Uniformity of bulb size 1 2 3 4 5**

**Uniformity of bulb shape 1 2 3 4 5**

**Suitability for your location/climate 1 2 3 4 5**

**General customer appeal (i.e colouring/size) 1 2 3 4 5**

**Efficiency of harvesting 1 2 3 4 5**

**Storage 1 2 3 4 5**

Would you want to grow this variety again? Yes No

Please list any pros/cons related to growing this variety.

Pros Cons

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Measurement Chart**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Leaf Length** | **Leaf Width** | **Shaft Length** | **Bulb Diameter** |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |
| **5** |  |  |  |  |
| **6** |  |  |  |  |
| **7** |  |  |  |  |
| **8** |  |  |  |  |
| **9** |  |  |  |  |
| **10** |  |  |  |  |

**Please write any notes or special observations that you would like to mention. Thank you for your help!**

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**Location** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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