

2011

Muscatine Island Research Farm Summary

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Abstract

Includes Farm and Weather Summary and Project List.

Keywords

RFRA1011

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

Muscatine Island Research Farm Summary

RFR-A1011

Muscatine Island Research Farm Association

President..... Ron Shepard, Fruitland
 Vice President..... Rick Bartenhagen, Muscatine
 Secretary-Treasurer..... Vince Lawson, Fruitland
 Director Keith Bartenhagen, Muscatine
 Director Greg Wilson, Muscatine

Research Farm Superintendent Vince Lawson

Ag Specialist Joe Hannan
 Ag Specialist Myron Rees

Research and Demonstration Farms Manager Dennis Shannon
 32 Curtiss Hall, ISU

Research and Demonstration Farms Coordinator Mark Honeyman
 32 Curtiss Hall, ISU

2010 Acknowledgements

The following companies have provided products or financial support during 2010.
 Their cooperation and support is greatly appreciated.

- Bayer Cropscience, 2 T.W. Alexander Dr, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
- Chemtura USA Corporation, Middlebury, CT 06749
- Dow Agrosciences LLC, 9330 Zionsville Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46268
- Dubois Agrinovation, Inc., 478 Notre-Dame, C.P. #750, Quebec, Canada
- Dupont Crop Protection, Laurel Run Building, Chestnut Run Plaza, Wilmington, DE 19898
- FMC Corp, 1735 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19103
- Hollar & Company, PO Box 106, Rocky Ford, CO 81067
- Hook’s Point Irrigation, 3850 Xavier Avenue, Stratford, IA 50249
- Rogers Brand, Syngenta Seeds, Inc., P.O. Box 4188, Boise, ID 83711-4188
- Rispens Seeds, Inc., 1357 Dutch American Way, Beecher, IL 60401.
- Stokes Seeds, Inc., P.O. Box 548, Buffalo, NY 14240
- Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Greensboro, NC 27419

Farm and Weather Summary

Vince Lawson, farm superintendent

Farm Comments

Developments. The Muscatine Island Research and Demonstration Farm (originally known as the Muscatine Island Field Station) celebrated its 75th anniversary this year. The research farm was officially established in 1935 through a cooperative agreement between Iowa State College and the Muscatine Island Truck Crops Association (now known as the Muscatine Island Research Farm Association). This successful partnership supporting the research farm continues today and was recognized at meetings and field day events this summer. Also, a special commemorative 75th anniversary booklet outlining the farm's history was published and a new 4 ft × 8 ft farm sign featuring a distinctive 75th anniversary logo was erected.

Joe Hannan, ag specialist since 2006, has taken a new position as Horticulture Field Specialist with ISU Extension in Central/Western Iowa. Joe played an integral part in the farm operation including conducting research projects, some of which you will read about in this report. Although Joe will be missed, his move will be good for Iowa's horticulture industry. I know he will deliver the same dedication and hard work to his new duties that he demonstrated here.

Field Days and Tours. The annual meeting of the Muscatine Island Research Farm Association was held on March 2, 2010, at the Holiday Inn Conference Room, Muscatine, IA. Association business, including election of directors, was conducted and an update on research farm activities was presented. A special 75th Anniversary Field Day Celebration was held on June 29 with over 100 attendees. A highlight was Dr. Jeff Iles, Chair, Department of Horticulture, presenting

a plaque honoring 75 years of cooperation between ISU and Muscatine Island Research Farm Association, to the president, Ron Shepard. The Home Demonstration Garden Tour was held on Monday evening, August 9.

New Projects. New projects starting in 2010 included an evaluation of newly developed starch-based biodegradable mulches and conventional petroleum-based photodegradable mulches; insecticides were evaluated for effectiveness at controlling Colorado potato beetle and potato leafhopper; and a sweet potato cultivar trial, evaluating old and new cultivars, was conducted.

Weather Comments

The 2010 growing season was another soggy season. Measured rainfall during April–October totaled 46 in. and displaces 2009 as the second wettest growing season on record since 1960. June was the wettest month with 11.06 in. of rain; a full 6.7 in. more than normal. Unlike the cool 2009 season, 2010 was generally warm with temperatures slightly above normal causing crops that weren't in low wet areas to grow quickly. The growing season, as measured by days with temperatures above freezing (32°F), was 188 days in length from March 29 through October 4. A low temperature of 33°F on May 9 came very close to making the growing season significantly shorter.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to our crew for their hard work and dedication during the 2010 season: Joe Hannan and Myron Rees, agricultural specialists; Danielle Wanfalt, student intern; and our volunteer helpers during melon harvest, Rick Peters and Shelley Lawson.

Table 1. Muscatine Island Research and Demonstration Farm, Fruitland, monthly rainfall and average temperatures for 2010.

Month	Rainfall (in.)		Temperature (°F)		
	2010	Deviation from normal	2010	Deviation from normal	Days 90° or above
March	NA	NA	42.6	3.4	0
April	5.00	1.32	55.3	4.6	0
May	6.57	2.33	62.5	0.3	4
June	11.08	6.66	70.5	-1.0	2
July	9.55	5.61	76.3	1.1	8
August	5.64	1.49	75.4	2.3	13
September	5.60	2.08	63.1	-1.0	1
October	<u>2.65</u>	<u>-0.07</u>	54.4	2.2	<u>0</u>
Totals	46.04	19.42			28

Research Farm Projects

Project

AAS vegetable trials
 Home demonstration garden
 Cherry tree cultivar demonstration
 Grape potassium-magnesium nutrition study
 Wine grape cultivar trial (SERF)
 Melon cultivar trial
 Sweet corn cultivar trial
 Sweet potato cultivar trial
 Potato insecticide evaluation
 Biodegradable mulch evaluation
 Evaluation of SCN-resistant soybean varieties

Project Leader

V. Lawson/J. Hannan
 C. Haynes
 J. Hannan
 J. Hannan/P. Domoto
 P. Domoto/J. Hannan
 V. Lawson/J. Hannan
 V. Lawson/J. Hannan
 V. Lawson/J. Hannan
 V. Lawson
 V. Lawson/H. Taber
 G. Tylka/C. Marett/G. Gebhart