

NOTES:

"KOBA" GREEN ONION

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ABSTRACT

"Koba", a green onion produced from seed attains marketable size as early as 60 days and yields equal to and higher than the local vegetative types of green onion.

KEYWORDS: *Koba, green onion, Allium fistulosum*

ORIGIN

"Koba" is of unknown origin (probably Chinese) which was imported by a grower from Hong Kong for a number of years. Quarantine regulations prevented further entry because of the presence of seed of restricted weed species. Faced with a loss of a seed source, the grower provided a small amount of seed to the College for study and increase. Sufficient seed was subsequently increased for grower evaluation. The new variety was well accepted by green onion growers and seed was made available through the Seed Program in the Department of Horticulture. The variety was named after the farmer who originally imported the seed.

DESCRIPTION

"Koba" is within the Japanese Bunching or Welsh Onion (*Allium fistulosum* L.) group. It is ready for harvest at 60 to 90 days after planting. "Koba" does not divide as prolifically as the local multiplier types. The dark green leaves attains a length of 40 to 50 cm at maturity which is ideal for the market. This variety must be harvested within 90 days after seeding since it begins to develop seed stocks after this time. It is a heavy seed producer and a field of "Koba" has been producing seed continuously for more than a year. Fresh weight yields obtained in grower trials ranged from 12,320 to 60,984 kg per ha. The 1993 State average yield (1) is 9,184 kg per ha for predominantly local multiplier green onion types. Consumers preferred the "Koba" because of its dark green color, size, suitability for mechanical chopping and good shelf life. Growers preferred this variety over the traditional multiplier varieties for the following reasons:

- 1) It is easily marketed.
- 2) It is not necessary to tie up valuable land for propagation materials.
- 3) It is apparently more resistant to purple blotch than the local green onion varieties.
- 4) Locally grown seed is not subject to import quarantine regulations.

AVAILABILITY

Limited amounts of "Koba" may be obtained through the Seed Program, Department of Horticulture, St. John Plant Science Building 112, 3190 Maile Way, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822.

LITERATURE CITED

Hawaii Agricultural Reporting Service. 1994. Statistics of Hawaiian Agriculture 1993. U.S. Dept Agriculture - Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture.