

## Effect of Converted Organics™ LC on the Yield of Processing Onions (4)

California is the largest producer of Onions in the United States with 44,000 acres and more than 950,000 tons harvested each year according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture statistics (2003). At over \$200 million sales annually it is a major crop for the State, ranking behind Celery (#24) and before Cauliflower (#26). Growers are constantly looking for ways to improve harvest yields, crop quality and plant uniformity, in addition to reducing fertilizer and pesticide usage plus protecting the largest investment of all – their soil.



### BACKGROUND

Commercial field trials were conducted on conventional processing onions in Coalinga, California. The primary objective was to evaluate the benefits of a microbially-based organic fertilizer product (*Converted Organics™ LC*) against the growers' standard program and quantify the effects on onion production.

**Table 1: Conventional Processing Onions Trial Conditions**

Product Tested	Converted Organics™ LC
Crop Tested	Conventional Processing Onions
Planting Date	12/02/02
Application Date	04/30/03
Application Schedule	1x 15gallons per acre (gpa)
Growers Standard Program	Conventional fertilizers
Application Method	Solid set sprinklers fed at 15 gpa Converted Organics™ LC
Treatment Location	Rows 306 to 398 were treated with Converted Organics™ LC on both sides
Field Location	4 mi. E. of Lassen on Hwy 198, CA
Harvest Date	09/13/03

### DATA COLLECTION and ANALYSIS

The grower kept the harvest data from the treated and control areas separate. He reported that the average yield in the control area was 17.1 tons per acre. The average yield in the *Converted Organics™ LC* treated area was 18.3 tons per acre.

**Table 3: Yield Data at Harvest**

Description	Control	Converted Organics™ LC
Yield, tons/acre	17.1	18.3
Increase (Loss) tpa	-	1.2

**Photo 1: Field Processing Onions**



### CONCLUSIONS

*Converted Organics™ LC* use in production of process onions resulted in **1.2 tons/acre increase in onion production**. At \$88.00 per ton of onions this equates to an increase of \$105.60 per acre of additional revenue. If *Converted Organics™ LC* was purchased at \$2.00 per gallon, the **net return on investment would be \$75.60 per acre increase**.