



Use of Small Farm Equipment



Melons on green plastic. 30% more yield expected,

Experimentation on a Northeast Iowa farm...

A local producer has been experimenting with the small equipment on their farm.

Oats were used as a between row cover crop and for protection against wind shear on the seedlings. They have a drip irrigation T tape system installed under the plastic that runs from a standard farm hydrant on the barn. They expect availability of water will be important to yield as well as the added warmth from the plastic and weed control.

Transplants were obtained from Plantpeddler in Cresco. It is estimated that using transplants will increase production time by 4-6 weeks.

The area was a corn field last year and alfalfa three years prior to that.

One drawback to this production system is that the plastic needs to be recycled but may be useful in plantings featuring perennial crops.



Sweet potatoes and standard potatoes planted with two of the small two row Checchi & Maggii planters. We expect minimal weeding!



Tomatoes and peppers on red plastic. Thirty percent (30%) more merchantable value expected for tomatoes and 15% more yield expected for peppers.

