

THE EFFECT OF THE CONDITION OF THE
SEEDLING AT TRANSPLANTING ON THE GROWTH
AND YIELD OF LARGE ONION (ALLIUM CEPA L.)

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The onion (Allium Cepa L.) is an important vegetable and spice commodity in many countries. Large onion (big onion) and small onion (red onion) are the most important types of onions to Sri Lankan farmers. Large onion yield, obtained by many farmers, are very low possibly owing to the use of less suitable seedlings for transplanting.

An experiment was conducted at the Agricultural Research Station, Maha Illuppallama to investigate the effect of seedling stage at transplanting on the growth and yield of large onions, using the variety "N - 53".

Results indicated a strong linear and quadratic relationship between number of leaves in the seedling at transplanting and the final bulb yield. Seedlings with three leaves at four weeks after emergence gave highest bulb yield, this yield increase was attributed to the increase in bulb weight and bulb diameter.

Seedlings with three leaves at four weeks after emergence should be used for transplanting in order to obtain a higher bulb yield from large onion variety "N - 53".