



BADGER MEMO

July 2021

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UW-Seed Farm Issue

The July edition of the Badger memo is brought to you by the UW-Seed Farm.

2021 Planting

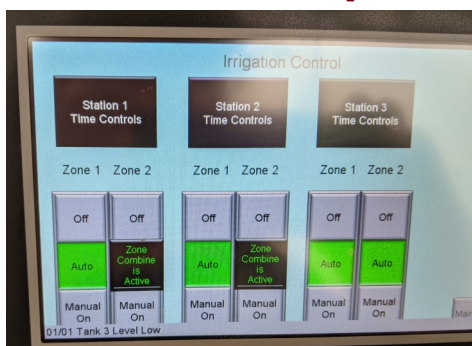
The 2021 planting season began May 10th with the occasional snowflake in the air. Later on we saw temperatures in the high 80's and low 90s. With the exception of some rain days planting was able to continue uninterrupted.

During grading, cutting and planting the UW-Seed farm was short on labor. The shortage ranged from one to two people up to five or six short depending on the day and the tasks that needed to be accomplished. A very big thanks to all program and farm staff members for their help. Thanks to the staff from the Madison lab for help as well.



Above: Dianna Kessler, Jim Meyer, Josie Spurgeon, Clover Spacek and Eric Grulke.

Greenhouse Update



Above: Touchscreen control panel for greenhouse four.

The renovation to greenhouse four has resulted in significant labor savings. There are still several details to fine tune but the first cycle was a success. Each greenhouse production zone has two pumps and the computer will automatically switch pumps if one fails. It also runs the pumps in alternating cycles to keep the seals hydrated and ensure both are functional. The controls for greenhouse four will be accessible remotely.

Greenhouse Update Continued

The high intensity discharge lights in greenhouse four were rearranged to provide complete uniform coverage over the crop. As a result of the renovation it was possible to add additional trays improving production capacity. The next step in this production system will be to provide heated nutrient solution during the winter months.

Right: Nutrient Film hydroponic production in greenhouse four.



Growing Season Update

The 2021 growing season started out dry, farm staff began running irrigation systems in early June. Changes were made to the seed farm's hiller by Bob Arndt. This included a 300 gallon nutrient tank with a rate controller and improving the frame for the hiller. As a result only one tractor was needed for hilling compared to the previous two tractors and operators.

The crop emergence was very uniform and a good level of weed control has been achieved. Product application for Colorado Potato Beetle will begin this week.

Equipment Requests

The Seed Farm is interested in purchasing/obtaining the following pieces of equipment.

- Pivot tower
- Ten ton gravity box (with or without running gear)
- Tandem disc 18 to 20 feet wide