

# **2000 Annual Progress Report**

## **Muscatine Island Research Farm, Fruitland, Iowa**

Management and support of the Muscatine Island Research Farm are provided through a cooperative operating agreement between the Agricultural Experiment Station of Iowa State University and the Muscatine Island Growers Association. The farm is owned by the Growers Association whose officers are listed below. Vincent Lawson is the farm superintendent.

### **Directors of the Muscatine Island Growers Association**

President	Ron Shepard, Fruitland
Vice President	Rick Bartenhagen, Muscatine
Sec.-Treasurer	Vincent Lawson, Fruitland
Director	John Hoopes, Muscatine
Director	Keith Bartenhagen, Muscatine

Special thanks to Mark Stoskopf, Ag Specialist, and Joshua Sieren and Jenny Petersen, Research Assistant, for their invaluable contributions in conducting the research.

For more detail on projects conducted at the Muscatine Island Research Farm, contact Vince Lawson, P. O. Box 40, Fruitland, Iowa 52749.

### **2000 Crop Season**

Monthly rainfall and average temperatures for the 2000 growing season at the Muscatine Island Research Farm are presented in Table 1. The last freezing temperatures of the spring occurred on April 12 when a low of 25 F was recorded. The first killing frost of fall occurred on October 7 (27 F) resulting in a frost-free growing season of 177 days. Warm temperatures during April and May promoted early planting and crop establishment. However, an abundance of cool rainy days in June slowed crop development and was detrimental to some of the early-maturing vegetable crops. Dry sunny conditions returned during July allowing most of the late summer and fall crops to produce good yields and quality.

**Table 1.** 2000 monthly rainfall and average temperatures at the Muscatine Island Research Farm, Fruitland, Iowa.

Month	Rainfall		Temperature (degrees °F)		
	2000	Deviation from normal	2000	Deviation from normal	No. days 90° or above
April	4.2	.7	51.5	1.9	0
May	5.7	1.6	65.1	3.4	0
June	6.8	2.8	69.9	-1.8	4
July	3.7	-.4	73.3	-1.9	3
August	1.6	- 2.4	75.2	2.2	9
September	4.7	1.0	64.9	1.8	7
October	1.6	-1.0	57.0	5.6	0
Total	28.3	2.3			23