



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

**Gary W. Black**  
Commissioner

**DATE:** June 27, 2013

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Consider Amendments to certain rules pertaining to the Georgia Vidalia Onion Act, Chapter 40-7-8-.02 and 40-7-8-.17.

## **TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, O.C.G.A. § 2-14-130 et. seq., notice is hereby given that the Georgia Department of Agriculture will be accepting written comments regarding the amendments to Chapter 40-7-8, relating to the Georgia Vidalia Onion Act. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 2-14-132.1, the Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized to take all actions necessary and appropriate to protect the Vidalia Onion® trademark. To further protection of the trademark, the following amendments are promulgated. Amendments contained within this chapter will define “packing date” as necessary terminology, and describe packing date requirements. The Department will be accepting written comments from June 27, 2013, to close of business (4:30 p.m. EDT) on July 29, 2013.

## **SYNOPSIS, MAIN FEATURES, AND DIFFERENCES:**

The Department is proposing to amend Departmental Rule 40-7-8-.02 entitled “Definitions,” by removing (r) “Shipping Date” and replacing it with “Packing Date”, establishing when Vidalia Onions® may first be packed and shipped.

The Department is proposing to amend Rule 40-7-8-.17, “Shipping Date” by replacing it with “packing date”. The packing date is the first day whereby Vidalia Onions® may be packed and put into commerce.

## **COMMENT PERIOD AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Department will be accepting written comments from June 27, 2013, to close of business (4:30 p.m. EDT) on July 29, 2013. Written comments shall be considered on July 29, 2013. A public hearing will be held on July 30, 2013 at 11:00 AM in room 201 of the Agriculture Building. Please submit written comments to:

Jack Spruill  
Georgia Department of Agriculture  
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Telephone Number: 404-656-3600  
FAX Number: 404-232-1547

You may download a copy of the synopsis and the proposed rules from the Georgia Department of Agriculture website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

This notice is given in compliance with the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.