



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

**Gary W. Black**  
Commissioner

**DATE:** June 21, 2016

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Consider an Amendment to Rule 40-7-8-.08 entitled “Handling Requirements”

**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 an amendment to Rule 40-7-8-.08, relating to the Georgia Vidalia Onion Act. The Department will be accepting written comments from June 21, 2016, to the close of business (4:30 p.m. EST) on July 21, 2016.

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

The Department is proposing to amend Rule 40-7-8-.08 entitled “Handling Requirements”, specifically paragraph 40-7-8-.09(1)(g)4, by replacing the current language providing for the commencement date of Transition 2 to be determined and announced by the Commissioner, at the recommendation of the Vidalia Onion Advisory Panel, no later than July 15th of each year with language providing that Transition 2 shall begin on the date of arrival of other yellow onions at a packing facility where Vidalia onions are being packed, stored, held, loaded and/or unloaded; provided, however, that Transition 2 shall begin no sooner than July 24th and shall end no later than September 30th of any year. The commencement date of Transition 2 shall be specific to the packing facility receiving other yellow onions

**COMMENT PERIOD AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Department will be accepting written comments from June 21, 2016, to the close of business (4:30 p.m. EST) on July 21, 2016. A public hearing will be held on July 22, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 201 of the Georgia Department of Agriculture Building located at 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.W. in Atlanta, Georgia. Written and oral comments will be considered on July 25, 2016. Please submit any and all written comments to:

Jack Spruill  
Marketing Division Director  
Georgia Department of Agriculture  
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.W., Room 324  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Telephone Number: 404-656-3600

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.