



# The University of Georgia

## CRISP CO. AG NEWSLETTER – FEB 2011

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### Topics:

- Around the County
- Name That Weed
  - Kudzu Bug
  - Burrower Bug
- Production Guides and Useful Websites
- Wheat Growth Stages/Fertilization/Counting Tillers

### • Around the County

Too wet in fields to do anything and production meetings are ongoing right now. To date I've had the watermelon, peanut/cotton meetings with excellent turnout. Production information changes each year and you need credits for your private applicators license so its beneficial to attend these production updates (for private license you need 3 hrs. /5yrs.) Also there are questions coming in related to wheat fertilizing and tillering and weather patterns. More info related to this below. Also there seems to be a new weed or bug that comes along every year or so. Included is information on the fairly new "burrower bug" and the almost, but not yet arrived "kudzu bug".

### • Name That Weed

This weed is found in the rosette stage this time of year. Later on in the spring it will grow up to 3' – 5' tall and have golf ball sized seed pods with purple tops. You usually never notice this weed until it grows on your land in pastures and along fence lines. This is thistle - AKA Yellow or Bull Thistle.



## • Kudzu Bug

Yes it feeds on kudzu but it also a pest of other legume plants including soybeans. In October 2009, large aggregations of the insect were discovered on the exterior of houses in nine northeast Georgia counties. By September 2010 the insect was confirmed in more than 77 north and central Georgia counties as well as limited distributions in North and South Carolina. Before discovery in Georgia, *M. cribraria* was not known to occur in the Western Hemisphere. It is related to various species of stink bugs. To date this bug has not been found in Crisp County however it has been confirmed as far south as Dooly County. Its economic damage to soybeans is not yet fully known. Regardless, here are pictures so that you will know it if or when you do see it.



Kudzu bug nymphs and an adult (left); hatching egg mass (right).



Kudzu bug adults on underside of leaf and stem of soybean.

## • Burrower Bug

This bug came on the scene about 3-4 years ago in peanuts. When it is found it is usually in reduced tillage operations. Here are some images of the damage they can inflict on peanuts and what the bug looks like.



Peanut damage from burrower bug. In the image you will notice the yellow to darkened "pock" marks, or feeding sites, from the burrower bug.



Burrower Bug.

## • Production Guides and Useful Crop Data Sites

- Cotton Production Guide:

<http://commodities.caes.uga.edu/fieldcrops/cotton/2011cottonguide/2011CottonProductionGuide.pdf> Or pick up in Crisp Extension Office.

- Wheat Production Guide:

[http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/gagrains/documents/WheatProductionGuide2010\\_2011.pdf](http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/gagrains/documents/WheatProductionGuide2010_2011.pdf) Or pick up in Crisp Extension Office.

- Peanut Production Guide:

Pick up a copy in Crisp Extension Office.

- 2010 Peanut/Cotton Variety Trial Data:

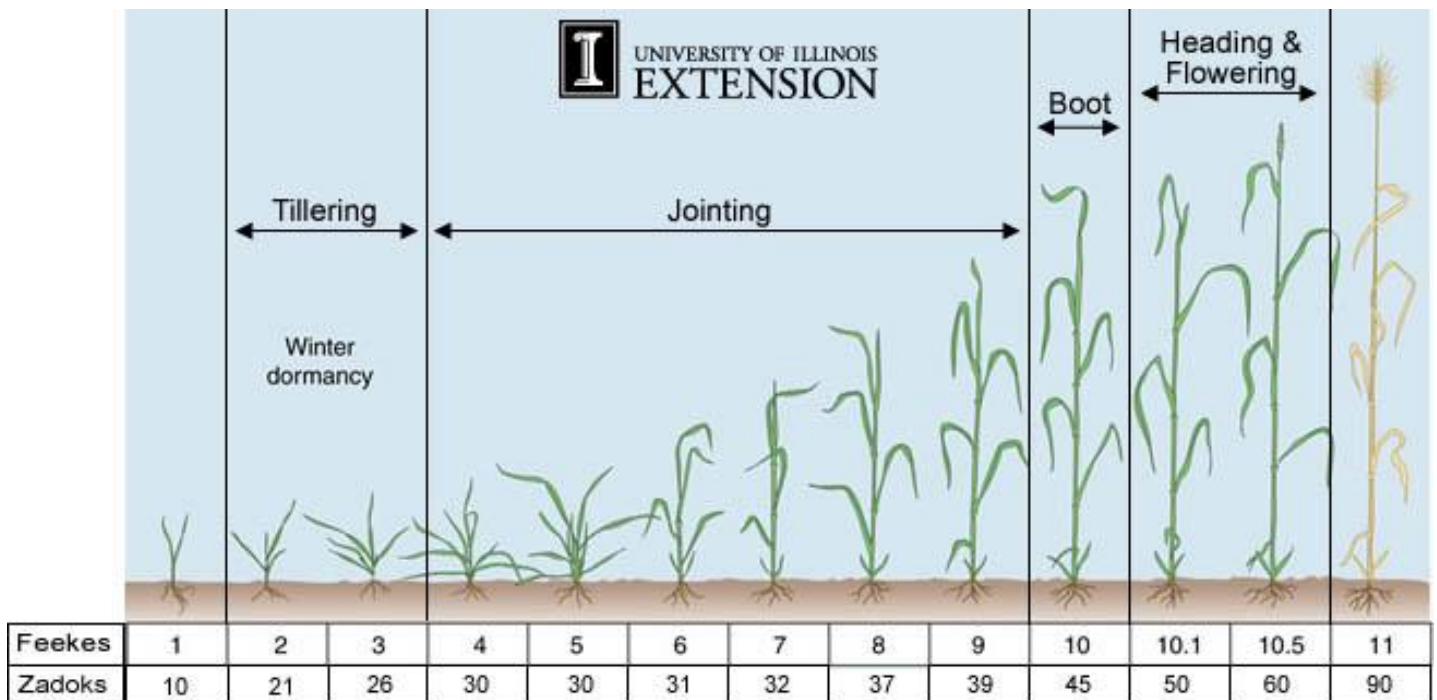
<http://www.swvt.uga.edu/pct-tests.html>

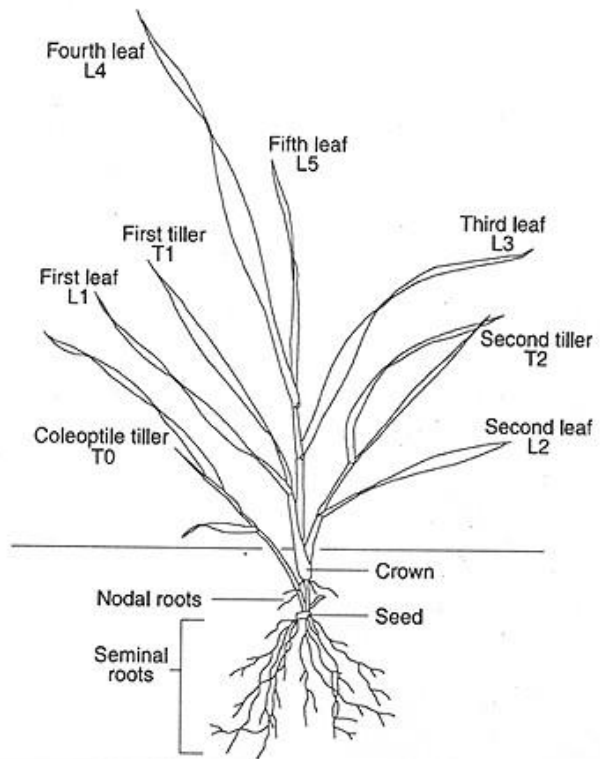
- 2010 Other Variety Trial Data:

<http://www.swvt.uga.edu/>

## • Wheat Growth Stages

When it comes to wheat growth stages, there is a set of terminology you must be familiar with. What is a “Feekes” growth stage and what is a “Zadoks” growth stage? Identifying tillers can be a challenge also. Below is some info that may help. Wheat growth stages are easier to show than describe. Pictures tell a thousand words.





**Two Tillers on this Plant.**

## • Wheat Fertilization and Counting Tillers

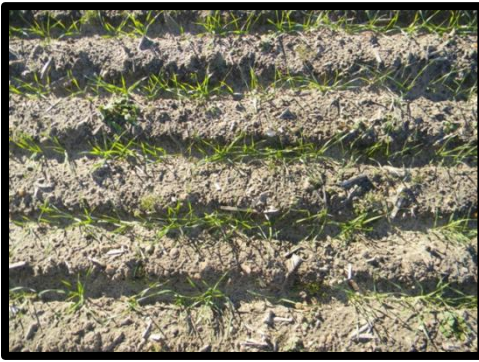


These are pictures of wheat growing right now under a pivot in Tifton. It shows the difference in planting dates and cold weather effects on wheat

← Planted very early November.



← Planted two weeks later.



← Planted four weeks later.

We've had exceptionally cold weather the past couple months that has delayed maturity in some wheat. Right now we should be counting tillers to determine the need for additional nitrogen applications for the proper tiller production prior to the onset of stem elongation. Randomly choose about 10 to 15 areas in the field to obtain an accurate estimate of tillers per square foot. On 7 inch drill this equates to 20.5 inches of row. On 7.5 inch drill this equates to 19.2 inches of row. For high wheat yields you would need between 50 – 70 wheat heads per square foot. To get this number you will need between 80-100 tillers per square foot prior to stem elongation. If you do have 80 or more tillers you should wait to apply nitrogen at stem elongation – within the next few weeks. Under normal weather (moisture) conditions it would be recommended to apply about 30 – 40 lbs now if you have less than 80 tiller/square foot and the remaining just before tillering. However given the wet conditions we have now, we may not have dry enough conditions to do split applications. Full consideration should be given to putting out the remaining N just before tillering when conditions allow.

## Bring Back Memories?

Mr. Tommy Hughes brought back memories for a lot of people. If you've ate at Smokies BBQ this past fall and looked across the road then you surely have seen a sight that some are blessed to be old enough to remember.

Peanuts were GA 06 variety. Tractor is 1952 Super C Farm All; Shaker is a pull-type Livingston. Peanuts were picked using a wooden bodied stationary Turner peanut picker. Tommy says he will do this again this fall if you missed last fall's picking – the way it used to be!



# **Thank You!!!**

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