



The University of Georgia[®]

CRISP CO. AG NEWSLETTER – Dec. 09

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Around the County

On Monday Dec. 14th I poured 4.75" rain out of my gauge at the extension office. The next morning I poured out 2.25". This is not good as we still have cotton that needs picking. From talking to growers I would guess between 25% – 35% of the cotton crop was still in the field as of 12/17/09. The wet weather has also delayed planting of wheat; more info on that below. At this point we can say that our peanut harvest turned out good. I attended a county agent peanut update recently in which we discussed varieties. It was interesting to see parents of our current varieties; more info on this in this newsletter as well. I've also got dates set for winter production meetings. There are more than enough opportunities to get your private applicators license credits taken care of during the months of January and February. For private applicators license, you need 3 credit hours every 5 years.

Peanut Cultivar Information

Here is some info I picked up at a recent county agent peanut update training. I thought this was interesting. Especially during peanut harvest when you look at a vine of one variety of peanuts and see some pods that look like they may be showing characteristics of their parent variety. Here are parent varieties of some of our peanuts that will be available in 2010.

Variety

Georgia Green

Georgia Greener

Georgia 02C

Georgia 06G

Georgia 07W

Florida 07

Tiftguard

AP-4

Cross

Southern Runner X Sunbelt Runner

Georgia Green X C-99R

Southern Runner X Georgia Runner

Georgia Green X C-99R

C99R X Georgia Green

C-99R X Hi Oleic Exp Line

C99R X Coan

(Andru 93 X F435-HO) X (88 X)OL3-HO6)

Burrower Bug – *In Peanuts*



I've seen these here and there in peanut fields and have also come across some pods that have been damaged by this bug. When this bug is described a typical reaction is, "it's a what?" followed by some disbelief. This bug however is for real. They are typically found in strip till operations and especially dry land strip till. They prefer undisturbed soil. There are no major outbreaks of this insect but just be aware that they are there.

WHEN IS TOO LATE TO PLANT SMALL GRAINS? *Dewey Lee, Small Grains*

Many factors determine the effects that planting dates have on small grain production. Temperature, moisture, disease, weeds, and/or insect pressure and irradiation are the environmental factors that generally affect plant growth during the fall and winter months. Obviously, each year is therefore different. So as you can see, the best planting dates are often moving targets. In general, though, research and experience has shown us that the week before and after the first frost day, is usually the best period. For most of Georgia this will occur sometime in early to mid-November. This window of time allows small grains to grow roots deep enough and produce enough tillers to sustain an excellent yield potential. As you past these dates, growing degree units decline and negatively affect the number of tillers and roots that can be produced. Very seldom are yields of a December planted crop better than one that is planted in November. In addition, the vernalization requirement of the variety may not be met when planted late in the season thus delaying the reproductive phase and growth at the proper time. Grain yields of late planted small grains will easily be reduced 25 to 75% of normal. Yield loss progressively increases the later one plants. The same is true for planting small grains for cover crops. Studies in Tifton have shown the dry matter production of small grains planted in December is reduced by 60% of that from small grains planted in October. It is important therefore to plant in a timely manner to achieve the best yields for either grain or dry matter production. As you plant later, expect yields to decline and accelerate in loss as you approach mid to late December.

Medium to late maturing, long vernalizing varieties should be only planted early to mid way of the planting window. Medium maturing varieties with medium to short vernalization varieties can be planted throughout the planting window. Yield reductions occur less with medium to early maturing/medium to short vernalizing varieties when planted late as compared to the later materials. If you are two to four weeks past your prime planting period, then only use short to medium vernalizing varieties. Generally, I will not recommend planting beyond that window.

PECAN VARIETIES - *I still get a lot of questions about pecan varieties; where you can get seedlings; and disease information. Here is some info I sent out in an earlier newsletter that should answer a lot of questions related to pecans.*

It's never too early to purchase commercial pecan trees. Often if you wait till the winter, you're already too late. Here are some sites you may find useful in obtaining pecan trees for commercial orchards. Here is a site of mentioning some pecan nurseries.

<http://www.tifton.uga.edu/ugapecan/PECAN%20NURSERY%20LIST.pdf>

Choose cultivars carefully as this, along with selection of the orchard site, is one of the most important decisions you will make in the life of the orchard. Current recommended cultivars for commercial production in Georgia are Caddo, Cape Fear, Desirable, Elliot, Forkert, Kanza, Oconee, Pawnee, and Sumner. There are many other varieties that are recommended under certain conditions or for trial. These include Candy, Creek, Excel, Gloria Grande, Kiowa, Moreland, and Stuart. Information on all of these cultivars and more is available from UGA Cooperative Extension Bulletin 898 "Pecan Varieties for Georgia Orchards", which can be found at <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/C898/C898.htm>

For more detailed information on these and many other pecan cultivars, see the UGA Pecan Breeding webpage at <http://sacs.cpes.peachnet.edu/pecan/>

Dates to Remember

- **Winter Production Meetings** - Letters will be mailed out advertising these meetings:

January 14	Crop Economics Update	12 Noon	Crisp Co Extension Ag Mtg Room
January 20	Peanut Update	12 Noon	Crisp Co Extension Ag Mtg Room
January 25	Watermelon Update	TBA	TBA
January 30	GWA Educational Session	8:30 AM	Lake Blackshear Retreat
February 2	Corn & Soybean Update	12 Noon	Crisp Co Extension Ag Mtg Room
February 10	Cotton Production Update	12 Noon	Crisp Co Extension Ag Mtg Room
February 16	Pecan Production Update	12 Noon	Crisp Co Extension Ag Mtg Room
February 22	Weed Control Update	9 AM	Crisp Co Extension Ag Mtg Room
March 11	Forestry Carbon Credit Mtg	7 PM	Crisp Co Extension Ag Mtg Room

- David West (Crisp Co. FFA Advisor) is having an **FSA Financial and Production Management Training**, January 11th, 12th, and 13th at the Thrasher House in Ashburn from 6-10 PM. Call David for more info @ 229-947-0370.

- **Ag Forecast Breakfast Meetings around GA** - You can register for these or find out more info on these meetings at www.georgiaagforecast.com.

The Ag Forecast breakfasts will be held

- January 25: Rome, Holiday Inn Express
- January 26: Gainesville, Georgia Mountains Center
- January 27: Statesboro, Nessmith-Lane Center
- January 28: Tifton, UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center
- January 29: Macon, Georgia Farm Bureau Building

- **3rd Annual Georgia Cotton Conference** – January 27, 2010

Free registration is from December 1, 2009 through January 18, 2010, online at www.ugatiftonconference.org or by phone 229.386.3416. Your early registration will help them get a count for the sponsored breakfast, break and lunch.



A Christmas Goose

Homeowner site visits have provided me the pleasure of meeting many beloved family pets over the years. I once even met a dog that could smile on command. Luckily I've never been attacked, until this past fall. This goose chased me all over the yard and put me back in the truck. It made a very effective "yard dog." If you've ever been bitten by a goose then you know it hurts and they show no mercy!



A Common Winter Weed

Here is a weed you'll usually see during the cool months. It's usually described to me as "that weed with the little purple flowers." This is **Henbit**. It's a winter annual that starts to pop up in fields, yards and anywhere else during the fall - sticks around through winter - then explodes in growth during the spring if left unchecked.

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Sincerely,

Tucker Price

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