



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

Seminole County Extension
207 E. Crawford St.
Donalsonville, Ga 39845

Phone: (229) 524-2326

Fax: (229) 524-2856

E-mail: ethredge@uga.edu

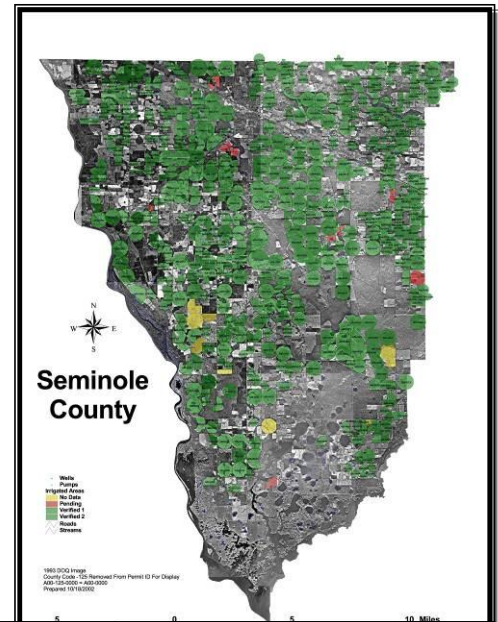
<http://www.ugaextension.com/seminole>

Seminole Crop E News

April 1, 2011

Farmers and Agribusiness,

Welcome rain but unwelcome hail and wind on the weekend. Some corn and some wheat had damage. Wheat heads knocked off in some fields. Corn cut down low and leaves shredded. This was in a limited area of our county thankfully, but we hear reports of systems flipped over and other damage nearby. Also some irrigation nozzles were affected. Old timers who saw the hail said it was the worst they'd ever seen.



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Wheat hit with hail north of Iron City, Georgia was affected severely. Many heads were cut off and some flag leaves shredded and stalks cut. Here's the link to a video I took of it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUYsE5xmjYk>



Special Report- 2011 Planting Intentions **Dr Don Shurley, UGA Extension Ag Economist**

USDA's Prospective Plantings report was released this morning. This much anticipated report is a survey-based estimate of what farmers say they intend to plant this year. The first estimate of what is actually planted will not be released until the end of June.

I believe this morning cotton numbers are a big surprise (shock) to most observers and analysts. It's safe to say the numbers are certainly on the low side of what most folks were expecting. More importantly, it's probably safe to say the numbers are lower than what the market was expecting. For that reason, the report should add further support for 2011 crop prices as we now proceed closer to planting and the upcoming growing season.

To see the full article go to <http://www.ugacotton.com/>



Hail on Corn

Fortunately this storm came early in the season because a little later and this corn's growing point would have been higher and cut off on many of these plants. It is good that the growing point was still very low, almost at soil level, so this corn should recover unless the growing point was killed due to the bruising by the hail.

We'll know in a few more days, but I believe we'll have some yield loss.

This photo shows where the stalk was cut off by hail on the right and my thumb is beside the growing point you can see by splitting the stalk.



Here's some video of these 2 fields that were affected by hail.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zScgwAD9UrA>

This is a different field that had shorter corn, and some of it was cut off fairly low by hail, but it was still above the growing point. So we may be ok.



Assessing Hail Damage to Corn

James V. Vorst, Purdue University

In the U.S., approximately half of all hailstorms occur between March and May. These early storms are responsible for only minor corn yield losses, however, because the corn either has not yet been planted or is too small to be damaged significantly. Even when fields are severely damaged early in the growing season, they can often be replanted.

On the other hand, about a third of all hailstorms occur between June and September. These have resulted in yield losses to corn estimated at \$52 million annually.

Hail affects yields primarily by reducing stands and defoliating the plant. Defoliation causes most of the losses. Thus, knowing how to recognize hail damage and assess probable loss is a very valuable decision-making aid.

For instance, proper assessment of yield loss after an early-season storm can help you determine whether or not to replant or understand how an insurance adjuster

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determines yield loss. An accurate estimate of loss from a late storm is important for making correct harvesting and marketing decisions.

In this publication, we will examine how hail damages the corn plant, how the degree of damage can be determined and how the extent of yield loss is estimated.

When Corn is Most Susceptible to Hail Damage

Prior to, and for some time after emergence, the corn plant is affected very little by hail damage. At emergence, the plant's growing point is below the soil surface and remains there for about 3 weeks (until five to seven leaves have fully emerged). Because the growing point is below the soil surface and in the leaf whorl, plant damage due to hail at these early stages rarely results in any significant stand or yield loss.

Approximately 3 weeks after emergence, all nodes and internodes have developed, and the growing point is elevated above the soil surface due to internode elongation. For the next 4-5 weeks, the plant grows rapidly and becomes increasingly vulnerable to hail damage up through the tasseling stage, which is the most critical period. Once past tasseling, hail would cause progressively less yield loss as the plant approaches maturity.

Determining Yield Loss Due to Stand Reduction

When a hailstorm occurs early in the growing season, an accurate stand reduction assessment is important if replanting is still a management option. Because it is difficult to distinguish living from dead tissue immediately after a storm, the assessment should be delayed for a week to 10 days. By that time, regrowth of living plants will have begun and discolored dead tissue will be apparent. (Another reason for assessment delay is that some plants initially surviving a storm may soon die because of disease infection entering at the sites of plant damage.)

To see the full document go to this site

<http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/NCH/NCH-1.html>

Georgia Peanut Commission reminds growers to return assessment increase referendum ballots

Tifton, GA - March 25, 2011 - The Georgia Peanut Commission is urging all growers to vote in the mail ballot referendum on increasing the assessment by \$1 per ton. The commission also encourages growers who did not receive a ballot for the assessment increase referendum to contact GPC. Peanut farmers have until April 15, 2011, to vote and return their ballots. The assessment funds programs of the commodity commission including promotion, research, education and communication.

The commission's board of directors decided to hold the referendum after holding a public hearing in Tifton, Feb. 9, regarding the proposal to increase the assessment from \$2 to \$3 per ton. The commission assessment has not been increased since 1980 when Georgia peanut producers voted to increase their assessment from \$1 per ton to \$2 per ton.

"I strongly urge all peanut growers to return their ballot by voting yes to ensure a strong future for the peanut industry in Georgia," says Armond Morris, chairman of the Georgia Peanut Commission. "We, as peanut farmers need to fund more research to stay on the cutting edge of peanut production especially during the recent budget cuts on the state and national level."

The Georgia Peanut Commission mailed ballots to all Georgia peanut producers on record the week of March 15 with voting instructions. If you are a peanut grower and have not received a ballot contact the Georgia Peanut Commission at 229-386-3470. For the referendum to pass at least 25 percent of all producers on record must submit a ballot and at least 66 and 2/3 percent of the ballots cast must be favorable.

For additional information on the programs of the Georgia Peanut Commission visit www.gapeanuts.com.

Georgia Peanut Commission

Joy Carter

Director of Communications

email: joycarter@gapeanuts.com

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Here are two photos taken by Patsy Hornsby at her and Vann's home near where the crop damage occurred, just after the hailstorm.

Question of The Week

Last week I had a lot of correct answers to my pond weed problem, it was filamentous algae. It causes real problems in ponds and I often get calls about it. There are some herbicides you can use on it and usually you treat 1/3 of the pond at the time. Winds will blow this around as it's not attached to the bottom but floats around.

What is this that flew over us this weekend and what does it have to do with agriculture?



Later,
Rome

Rome Ethredge
Seminole County Extension Agent