



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>

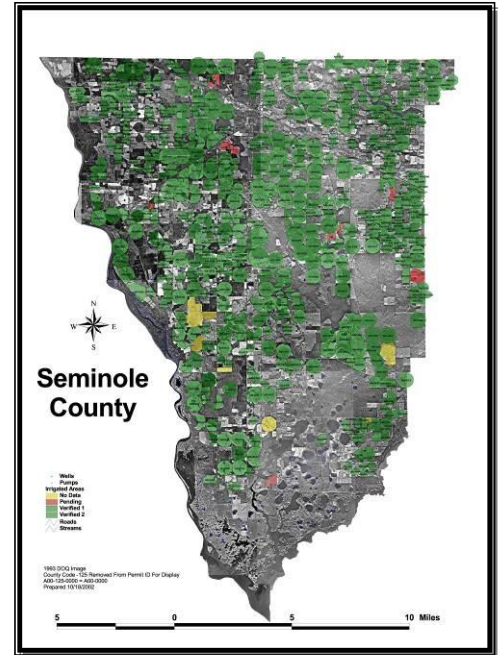
Seminole Crop E News

March 4, 2011

Farmers and Agribusiness,

Corn planting continues and small grains are jumping.

Todd Massey, Vice president of Dollar Farm Products, is here checking on some oats this week being grown for grain that are looking good despite a rough start due to cold weather and blackbirds.



Learning for Life

Agriculture and Natural Resources · Family and Consumer Sciences · 4-H Youth

ugaextension.com

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Institution



Aphids are showing up in wheat, but the threshold is 2 per stem for jointing wheat. I haven't seen enough to spray for yet but we need to keep a watch on them. If they keep reproducing like this we may be in trouble. This is an adult female and offspring we saw this morning.

Here's an excerpt from the UGA Wheat Production Guide concerning them.

Aphids: Aphids are small, soft-bodied insects that can be found in wheat anytime during the growing season. The most common aphids found on wheat are the bird cherry-oat aphid, rice root aphid, greenbug, corn leaf aphid, and English grain aphid. The first four occur mostly in the fall and winter. Only the greenbug causes direct feeding damage that appears speckled brown and discolored with some leaf curling. The other aphids usually do not cause obvious feeding damage. The English grain aphid is mainly present in the spring and can reach large numbers on flag leaves and developing grain heads. Damage from this pest can reduce kernel size and lower grain test weight. For the most part, beneficial insects such as lady beetles are not active during the winter and only exert some control over aphids during the spring in wheat. Aphids also vector a viral disease named barley yellow dwarf (BYD). Wheat and barley can be severely damaged, but oats are most susceptible to this disease. BYD is present in most fields in most years throughout Georgia. Yield losses of 5-15% are common but losses can exceed 30% during severe epidemics. Infection can occur from seedling emergence through heading, but yield loss is greatest when plants are infected as seedlings in the fall. Although all aphids can potentially transmit certain strains of the virus, infections in Georgia are mostly associated with infestations of bird cherry-oat aphid and rice root aphid. Planting date is the single most important management practice affecting aphid infestation and BYD infection in the fall. Early plantings generally have greater aphid numbers and greater BYD incidence than late plantings.

Systemic seed treatments, imidacloprid (Gaucho, Attendant, Axxess) and thiamethoxam (Cruiser), can be effective in controlling aphids in the fall and winter and can substantially reduce infection rates of BYD virus. These seed treatments are more effective in the northern half of the state, but are expensive and only recommended when (1) grain yield potential is high (>60 bu/acre), (2) a field has a history of BYD infection, and/or (3) early plantings will be

Learning for Life

Agriculture and Natural Resources · Family and Consumer Sciences · 4-H Youth

ugaextension.com

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Institution

made. In the coastal plain region, seed treatments have been inconsistent in control and are not recommended for routine use. Seed treatments also may reduce fall infestations of Hessian fly when applied at maximum rates.

A single, well-timed insecticide application of the insecticide lambda cyhalothrin (Karate Zeon, Silencer, and similar products) or gamma cyhalothrin (Declare) can control aphids, reduce the incidence of BYD and increase yields. The best time for treatment in northern Georgia usually is about 25 - 35 days after planting although an application at full tiller also may be beneficial. In southern Georgia, the best treatment time usually is at full-tiller stage in early to mid-February. But, scout fields for aphids at 25 - 35 days after planting and during warm periods in January to determine if an insecticide application is needed. A lambda cyhalothrin or gamma cyhalothrin treatment at full tiller can be applied with top-dress nitrogen. OP insecticides, such as dimethoate and methyl parathion, also will control aphids but are not effective in preventing barley yellow dwarf infection.

To sample aphids, inspect plants in 12 inches of row in fall and 6 inches of row in winter. In spring, inspect 10 grain heads (+ flag leaf) per sample. Count all aphids on both the flag leaf and head for making control decisions. Sample plants at 8 to 16 locations per field. Treat when populations reach or exceed the following thresholds:

Seedlings: 1-2 bird cherry-oat aphids per row foot, or 10 greenbugs per row foot.

2 or more tillers per plant: 6 aphids per row foot.

Stem elongation to just before flag leaf emergence: 2 aphids per stem.

Flag leaf emergence: 5 aphids per flag leaf.

Heading emergence to early dough stage: 10 aphids per head.

Do not treat for aphids after mid-dough stage.

Click here to go to the Wheat Production Guide.

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/gagrains/wheat.html>

Volunteer peanuts are busting the ground in a few spots. Recent warm weather is bringing some up that are shallow. It's way too early to even think about planting, however, but we do

need to plan what varieties we will plant and check on availability.





Warm weather is also bringing out the reptiles, as I saw on Wednesday. This was a small 3 footer.



On a visit to Weir Dairy Sam showed me their ryegrass grazing that looked great. He said it took lots of nitrogen to get it to looking that way. It started out as a ryegrass/oat mix but the intense cold gave the advantage to the ryegrass and it grew off well.

Also below see the corn silage he put up last summer, below and link here to a short video we took there of the silage.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-K_7alvJII



Learning for Life

Agriculture and Natural Resources · Family and Consumer Sciences · 4-H Youth

ugaextension.com

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Institution



Here's Frank Weir at milking time, my son Jesse took this short video of the milking process while we were there. They do a great job at the Weir dairy.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDJnjB9WKXA>

Onions

I was asked today to help decide whether some sweet onions needed a little more sulfur. The best thing would be to do a tissue analysis, but there's also a quick estimated evaluation, you can do by tasting a newly formed leaf to see how hot it tastes. In some years in the past I've tasted some that had almost no taste to them and we've then sprayed some foliar Magnesium Sulfate on them, but if the taste is pretty pungent you probably have enough sulfur already. These onions tasted like they have enough sulfur for good growth, and now my wife may not kiss me tonight.

See Video linked here for the procedure.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2rU72YDOul>

Onions are one of the oldest vegetables in continuous cultivation dating back to at least 4,000 BC. The ancient Egyptians are known to have cultivated this crop along the Nile River. There are no known wild ancestors but, the center of origin is believed to be Afghanistan and the surrounding region.

Onions are among the most widely adapted vegetable crops. They can be grown from the tropics to subarctic regions.

Onions were first brought to this country by early European settlers. These onions were adapted to the temperate climate found throughout the northeast where the first European settlements occurred.

Learning for Life

Agriculture and Natural Resources · Family and Consumer Sciences · 4-H Youth

ugaextension.com

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Institution

Varieties from warmer regions of the Mediterranean eventually made their way to the southeast United States. In particular, varieties from Spain and Italy would become important to the Vidalia onion industry. The first of these varieties came through Bermuda and were thus referred to as “Bermuda onions.” Here’s a link to a UGA Onion Production Management Guide

http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7749

Calling all Georgia Food Entrepreneurs:

How long have you wanted to market your family heirloom recipe for barbeque sauce, but didn't know what was required by the USDA/FDA, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, or the health inspectors, etc., to get started? Now you can attend a seminar like this one! This one-day seminar is co-sponsored by the UGA Food Science Extension Outreach Program and the UGA Center for AgriBusiness Development, and features speakers from the food industry as well as entrepreneurs who have started their own food businesses. The next Starting a New Food Business in Georgia seminar will be held Friday, April 15th, at the Food Science Bldg., UGA Campus, in Athens. The cost is \$100.00, which includes lunch, workshop materials and notebook.

The deadline to register for this workshop is Monday, April 4th - to register online with a credit card, go to the CALENDAR link at www.EFSONline.uga.edu and look for the Starting a New Food Business brochure and online registration links. The brochure has important information about parking and directions. Space is limited to 40, so register early!

Also check out the finalists of the 2011 Flavor of Georgia food product contest will be announced soon - <http://www.flavorofgeorgia.caes.uga.edu/>. Who knows?? Maybe your Georgia food product will win next year's contest!

Want to know more? Need a brochure that you can print out? Just send an email to ebmayes@uga.edu asking for the New Food Business brochure and we'll send it out immediately as an email attachment. The brochure is in PDF format and uses the free Adobe Reader software that you can download off the internet.



Here's Ollie introducing us to a dairy calf.

Learning for Life

Agriculture and Natural Resources · Family and Consumer Sciences · 4-H Youth

ugaextension.com

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Institution

Question of The Week

Last week's question was about some tracks I saw near a pond and I got several correct answers from good trackers and outdoorsmen, it was raccoon tracks. They like feeding on things in the water and often was things in the water that they're about to eat, as well.

This week's question is the following. What happened to this deer I recently saw that was killed here in Seminole County? Did someone throw some white paint on him.



Later,
Rome

Rome Ethredge
Seminole County Extension Agent