THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

Seminole Crop News

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Wheat Weeds

January 13, 2012

Weeds are showing up in wheat for grain, but we need to be careful about herbicide choice so as not to injure wheat and hurt yields. Some herbicides need for wheat to be fully tillered and we aren't at that point yet but we do have some tillers on our wheat so some good herbicides can be used at this point. Probably our most troublesome weed is wild radish/mustard. Here's one I saw this week. They are easier to control when small.

Here's a link to our UGA Wheat page with the New Wheat Production Guide with a good section on weed control.

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

Question of The Week – Rub

January 13, 2012

Yes, it was a deer rub like the one here, in the photo. Deer do this to rub velvet off their antlers and also to announce their presence to other deer. Here's a link to a UGA Publication concerning Wildlife Food Plots
http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/service/library/index.php3?docID=419&docHistory%5B%5D=13

Here's a link to a publication concerning Deer Tolerant Palnts you can use where they are a problem, http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7872

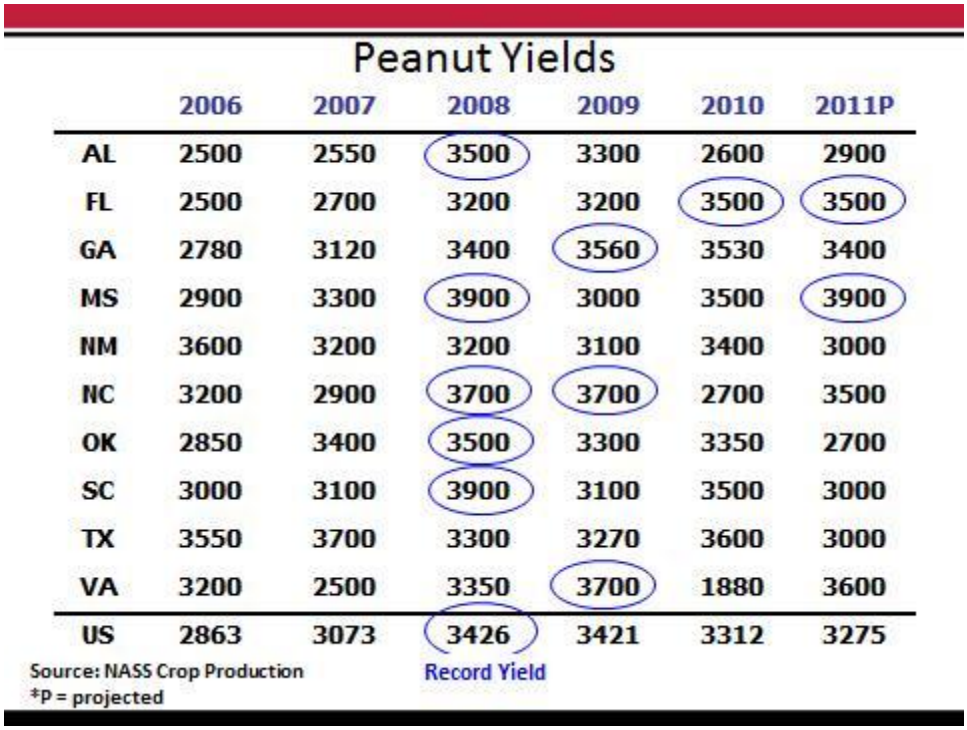
Here's a link to some of the Deer research at UGA http://www.ugadeerresearch.org/

This week I want to ask what this is we saw last week in the water and why did we witness this?

Peanut Yields

January 13, 2012

Peanut Yields have been good across the country. Here's a chart prepared by Dr. Nathan Smith, UGA Extension Ag Economist, concerning yields from peanut producing states for the past 5 years. Also he has included the estimate of this year's yields. Dry hot weather affected yields quite a bit on dryland acres whereas irrigated peanuts were extremely good this year.



Peanut Yields

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011P
AL	2500	2550	3500	3300	2600	2900
FL	2500	2700	3200	3200	3500	3500
GA	2780	3120	3400	3560	3530	3400
MS	2900	3300	3900	3000	3500	3900
NM	3600	3200	3200	3100	3400	3000
NC	3200	2900	3700	3700	2700	3500
OK	2850	3400	3500	3300	3350	2700
SC	3000	3100	3900	3100	3500	3000
TX	3550	3700	3300	3270	3600	3000
VA	3200	2500	3350	3700	1880	3600
US	2863	3073	3426	3421	3312	3275

Source: NASS Crop Production
*P = projected
Record Yield

The peanut industry learned a lesson last year: Farmers don't feel they have to drop peanut seed into the ground unless the price is right for their efforts. Georgia farmers last year planted the fewest peanuts in three decades. By harvest, this move pushed prices to more than $1,000 per ton, the highest in recent history. But that was last year. What about this one?

"2012 is looking better, at least the start of 2012. Prices are better than they were last year going into spring. … We should see a better year or better outlook for peanuts. There's a lower supply, so we need more acres," said Nathan Smith, a farm economist with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

Early contracts for 2012 peanuts are going between $650 and $750 per ton, still good prices. But if farmers plant without securing contracts first, they are taking a risk this year, Smith said.

In this episode of In the Field, Brad Haire, news director with UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and Smith talk about what farmers should do to wisely market this year's crop.

Watch Peanut prices hold strong, 2012 acreage still question

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

January 10, 2012

Anita Tabb with the NRCS office here told me that the cutoff for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications is Friday, Jan. 13th. Applications must be loaded in the computer by close of business on the 13th. See more information below.

WASHINGTON,– USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that the ranking period cut-off date for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is January 13, 2012. Producers interested in CSP should submit applications to their local

NRCS office by the deadline so that their applications can be considered during the first ranking period of 2012.

"CSP is one of our most popular conservation programs, and we expect to receive many applications," NRCS Chief Dave White said. "I encourage all farmers and ranchers who are interested in applying to contact their local NRCS office as soon as possible so they can meet the deadline."

CSP is offered in all 50 states, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancements and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help potential applicants determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from local NRCS offices and on the CSP Web page.

As part of the CSP application process, applicants will work with NRCS field personnel to complete the resource inventory using a Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). The CMT determines the conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities. The applicant's conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking and payments.

In 2010 alone, nearly 21,000 applicants enrolled in CSP, putting additional conservation on 25.2 million acres, about the size of the state of Kentucky, to improve water and soil quality, enhance wildlife habitat and address the effects of climate change.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/?cid=STELPRDB1046172

Fertilizing And Grazing Winter Annual Stands

January 2, 2012

FERTILIZING AND GRAZING WINTER ANNUAL STANDS

Cattle are eating some good oat, wheat, and rye forage now and Dennis Hancock, UGA Forage Extension Specialist, has some tips below to keep our small grains looking good.

In Georgia, our biggest competitive advantage in the beef cattle industry is our ability to grow and graze forage during the winter months. One of the most important parts of a winter forage program is, of course, the cool season annual grasses. However, it takes skill (and a healthy dose of common sense) to manage winter annuals so that the forage produced matches the stocking rate. Now that your winter annuals are in the ground for this season, this article presents seven keys to optimizing the production and management of your winter annual forage.

Avoid Grazing Too Early

There is a big difference between "*can*" and "*should*". Grazing of winter annuals *can* begin as soon as the plants are well-established and have accumulated 3-4 in. of growth. However, grazing *should* begin only after the plants accumulate 6 -8 in. of growth. The plants will survive if they are grazed too early, but they will never fully recover. Some recent research that Dr. Gary Hill and I have been doing in Athens and Tifton suggests that starting to graze too early (i.e., at ~4 in.) reduces the total forage yield in the season by at least one third.

Start Light, End Heavy

Along those same lines, it is best to begin with a light stocking rate and gradually increase it as the growing conditions improve and forage growth rate increases. A good way to do this is by restricting the animal's time on the paddock, rotating animals between paddocks, or using strip grazing techniques. But, later in the season, the growth rate of the winter annuals will be much more rapid. If a light stocking rate is maintained, much of the forage will get rank and overly mature. Ideally, more animals would be added to increase the

stocking rate. Of course, that usually is impractical. So, increase the stocking rate by reducing the number of acres grazed. In practice, this means shutting animals out of some pastures or paddocks and letting those areas grow up for hay or baleage. Be sure that you select those areas in advance, so that you don't put N fertilizer out if you don't need the extra forage.

Know Your Forage

Our winter annual species differ a lot in their tolerance of grazing. Ryegrass and rye are generally very tolerant of repeated grazing and generally regrow rapidly. On the other end of the spectrum, barley and triticale do not regrow well after grazing. Wheat and oats are more intermediate, as they are quite a bit slower to regrow than rye or ryegrass and have poor tolerance to heavy continuous grazing.

Feather the Throttle

When I was a kid, we had a tractor that had poor brakes. You had to think ahead to slow it down. Just as with that old tractor, the key to manipulating winter annual forage growth is to think ahead and throttle it back.

Putting down N at planting (or soon after) is critical, as that initial 40 – 50 lbs. of N per acre increases tillering (thickening of the stand) and provides earlier grazing. A second application of N per acre should be applied in mid -January to early-February to increase winter and spring forage production. If there is a great need for forage at that time and the coming weeks, 40 – 50 lbs. of N per acre should be applied. If the need is less, decrease the N rate accordingly. If winter annual legumes were used and they contribute 30 -40% or more of the stand, then no more than 25 lbs. of N per acre will be necessary.

Because ryegrass is longer-lived, a third application of 40 – 50 lbs. of N per acre may be needed in early spring when ryegrass is grown alone or used in a mix for late spring grazing, hay, or silage. (Again, if winter annual legumes are 30 -40% or more of the stand, then little if any additional N will be necessary.) The key to remember is that ryegrass is very responsive to N, and this makes the "throttle" very touchy. Further, you should keep in mind that late ryegrass production can decrease bermudagrass yields by 30-50%. So, if you don't need the extra forage or you are worried that it will slow the bermudagrass or bahiagrass, decrease the N rate accordingly or cut it out altogether.

Adjust for Previous Weather Conditions

If your soil is sandy and low in organic matter, rainy conditions can cause you to loose a significant portion of the N that you applied. As a result, you may want to put on your N earlier in January than normal in attempts to get additional tiller formation prior to the spring flush of growth. If the soil has more clay and/or organic matter, N losses due to leaching are likely to be much less significant and adding the N early is likely unnecessary.

On the other end of the spectrum is the situation that we had in the fall of 2007 and 2008, where drought and/or cool temperatures and overcast skies dramatically slowed fall growth. In these situations, N leaching losses are likely to be minimal, but so will be plant uptake. In addition, losses from volatilization (escape as a gas) may have occurred.

In either case, you may want to use the plant to tell you if there is a deficiency by getting a plant tissue analysis done. To do this, contact your county Extension Agent for more

information. If the plant tissue analysis shows that the vegetative growth has a N content lower than 3.00 -3.50%, then some additional N may be needed. If this is the case, then consult with your county Extension Agent to develop a plan.

Adjust for Future Weather Conditions

To continue the analogy to my old tractor, I would always be looking ahead to anticipate when I needed to start slowing down. The best way to do this in managing winter annual forage growth is to keep an eye on the medium range weather predictions. I *highly* suggest that you bookmark the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center's website (http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/). On this page, they provide links to the 6-10 day, 8-14 day, 1-month, and 3-month outlooks. In the summertime, the weather is too random to be predictable.

However, they are fairly accurate in the fall, winter, and spring months. Adjust for Low Fertility An abundance of N will do no good if the soil pH is so low that the plant's roots cannot extract it from the soil. In addition, low P or K in the soil will limit the growth of the winter annuals even if plenty of N is available. In fact, high N with low P and K may make them even more susceptible to disease and insect pressures. So, if the field's fertility is too low, then adding more than 30-40 lbs of N per acre at a time is throwing good money after bad.

If the forage growth is stunted and sporatic, it may be that the field's fertility is too low. If you have a pasture that exhibits stunted or sporatic growth, it also makes managing the grazing more difficult. It is best to keep a high stocking rate on one of these pastures. So, this pasture should be one that is grazed instead of being allowed to grow up for late spring grazing, hay, or silage.

More information on fertilizing and managing the grazing of winter annual pastures can be found on the Georgia Forages website (www.georgiaforages.com). Of course, your local University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Agent can also provide you with additional information and advice on managing your winter forages.

If you have questions about how to adapt these recommendations to your operation, contact your local Extension office by dialing 1-800-ASK-UGA1.

Later,

Rome

Learning for Life