



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

## Seminole Crop News

### Poinsettias

December 22, 2011

Rome Ethredge, CEC  
Seminole County Extension  
Phone: 229-524-2326  
Fax: 229-524-2856  
e-mail: ethredge@uga.edu



**Poinsettias are often displayed at Christmas. Here's some in First Baptist of Donalsonville. The event taking place is the recent Seminole County Concert Band Christmas Concert.**

**More than 70,000 poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) are sold each year making this the most popular flowering plant in the United States.**

**The poinsettia is a native of Mexico. It was named for Joel Roberts Poinsett, U.S. ambassador to Mexico, who introduced it to the states in 1828.**

**With care, you can brighten your home with the colorful bracts (the true flowers are tiny and yellow) through the holiday season.**

**Choosing Plants: Large bracts, Dark green foliage, Compact plant that doesn't look leggy**

**Getting Your Poinsettias Home:**

**Remember, this is a greenhouse grown plant and it is very sensitive to temperature changes. Cover with plastic, newspaper or a bag. Keep it in the car with you and the heater -not in the trunk.**

**When You Get Home:**

**Bright, indirect light. Cool conditions with medium to high humidity. Keep away from doors and drafts where they may get gusts of cold air. Keep away from windows that can cause temperature changes and chills. Keep away from heating vents and fireplaces. Check daily and water whenever the soil is dry. Do not let the plant wilt, but do not water if the soil is wet. Water with room-temperature water. Water thoroughly until the water drains out, and then empty the catch tray. Do not allow the pot to sit in standing water. For foil-wrapped pots, make a hole in the bottom of the foil to allow water to drain into a catch tray.**

**Reflowering for Next Year:**

**It is probably easier to discard your poinsettias when the bloom fades than to attempt to keep your plant for next year. However, many folks will want the challenge so here are some helpful hints.**

**Follow the directions above until all danger of frost is past. Cut the stems to within 4 to 6 inches of the soil. Move the plant to a container that is 2 to 4 inches larger than the original pot. Move your plant outdoors to a bright, partially-shaded area or area that gets morning sun and afternoon shade. The location should be protected from drying winds and high reflected light. Sink the pot to the rim. Water often but reasonably. Avoid extremes of wet or dry. Fertilize with a complete houseplant fertilizer (20-20-20) according to directions. Shape as desired by pruning and/or pinching. Pinching encourages more blooms. Do not shape after Sept. 1. Turn the pot regularly to prevent rooting and ensure even growth. A quarter turn each week is desirable, but the plant will do fine with less. When night temperatures begin to fall below 60 degrees, bring your plant inside. Continue to water and fertilize.**

**Beginning October 1, give the poinsettia 14 hours of complete continuous darkness daily. This can be done by placing the plant in a closet or covering it with a cardboard box. Any light will delay or prevent flowering. Give your plant bright light for the remaining 10 hours. When your poinsettia is in full bloom, you can discontinue the forced darkness and proceed with the maintenance instructions above.**

**Good luck and I hope you enjoy your beautiful poinsettia and have a Merry Christmas.**

## **2012 Seminole County Crop Production Meetings**

December 22, 2011

### **Seminole County Crop Production Meetings Coming up:**

**January 17, 2012 @ 11 am — **Peanut Production Meeting:** Ag Center, Town and Country Road, Donalsonville, GA**

**John Beasley, UGA Extension Peanut Scientist**

**Nathan Smith, UGA Extension Ag Economist**

**Bob Kemerait, UGA Extension Plant Pathologist**

**January 25, 2012 @ 11 am — **Corn Production Meeting:** Donalsonville Lions Hall, Wiley Ave., Donalsonville, GA**

**Dewey Lee, UGA Extension Grains Scientist**

**Eric Prostko, UGA Extension Weed Scientist**

**Rome Ethredge CEC Seminole County Extension**

**February 20, 2012 @ 11 am — **Cotton Production Meeting:** Donalsonville Lions Hall, Wiley Ave., Donalsonville, GA**

**Guy Collins, UGA Extension Cotton Crop Scientist**

**Stanley Culpepper, UGA Extension Weed Scientist**

**Phillip Roberts, UGA Extension Entomologist**

**2 hours Pesticide Credit for Private or Commercial at each meeting**

**Please call 229-524-2326 to let us know if you will attend so we can prepare for the meal.**

## **Question of the Week – Moss**

December 22, 2011

**The answer to last week's question is Moss. Mosses are branched, threadlike green plants that form a tangled, thick mat over the soil. They are spread by wind-blown spores and can form crusts on the soil surface that reduce air and water movement into the soil.**

**Factors that favor moss and algae development include wet, humid conditions and compacted soils with thin turf. Moss is more common in shady areas with infertile, acidic soils and excessive thatch; algae is more common in full sun conditions and fertile soils.**

**Here's a link to a UGA Extension Publication concerning moss control in Turfgrass.**

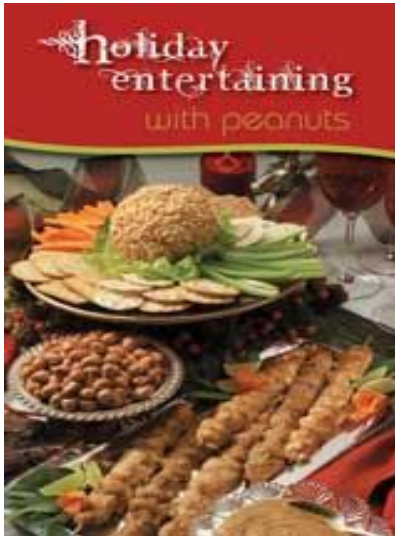
[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=6426](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6426)

**This week I want to ask about these symptoms on small trees. A farmer showed me this this week next to an old corn field.**



## [Cooking with Peanuts](#)

December 21, 2011



**The peanut is actually not a nut at all. It's a legume. Perhaps that's why boiling peanuts (in the shell, in salt water), a cooking method typical of other beans, is such a popular thing to do with peanuts in the South. Americans eat over 1 million pounds of roasted peanuts every day.**

**About 50 percent of peanuts grown are used to make peanut butter.**

**One acre of peanuts will make 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches, while Americans eat enough peanut butter (2.4 million pounds) in a year to make more than 10 billion peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.**

**Peanut butter is convenient, affordable (about 12 cents per serving) and nutritious. Peanuts and peanut butter are high in protein and fiber and contain 13 essential vitamins and minerals. And they're naturally cholesterol-free and low in saturated fat.**

**Approximately one-half of one percent of the American population has an allergy to peanuts. The number of cases has increased significantly over the past couple of years. Researchers are working on new ways to lessen the severity of peanut allergies.**

**Peanut butter is often thought of as children's food, but adults actually eat more of it than children. It is found in 89 percent of American homes. While November is peanut butter lovers' month, March is national peanut month.**

**Holiday cooking with peanuts is a great thing. Peanuts are good for you in many ways. Here's a good microwave peanut brittle recipe and a link to the Georgia Peanut Commission website that has several good peanut recipes including Peanut Marble Fudge and Peanut Butter Pie.**  
<http://www.gapeanuts.com/consumer/holiday/holidayrecipes.asp>

## **Dixie Peanut Brittle**

**Microwave oven method:**

**1 ½ cups raw shelled peanuts, skins on**

**1 cup granulated sugar**

**½ cup light corn syrup**

**1/8 teaspoon salt**

**1 teaspoon butter**

**1 teaspoon vanilla extract**

**1 teaspoon baking soda**

**Combine peanuts, sugar, syrup, and salt in a 1 ½ quart microwave safe container. Cook 8 minutes on high, stirring well after 4 minutes. Stir in butter and vanilla. Microwave 2 minutes\* longer on high. Add baking soda and quickly stir until light and foamy. Immediately pour onto lightly greased baking sheet; spread to ¼ – inch thickness. When cool break into pieces. Store in airtight container.**

**Yields about 1 pound.**

**• Cooking time may vary with ovens.**

## **No Bake Peanut Butter Pie**

### **Ingredients**

**4 ounces cream cheese**

**1 cup confectioners' sugar,**

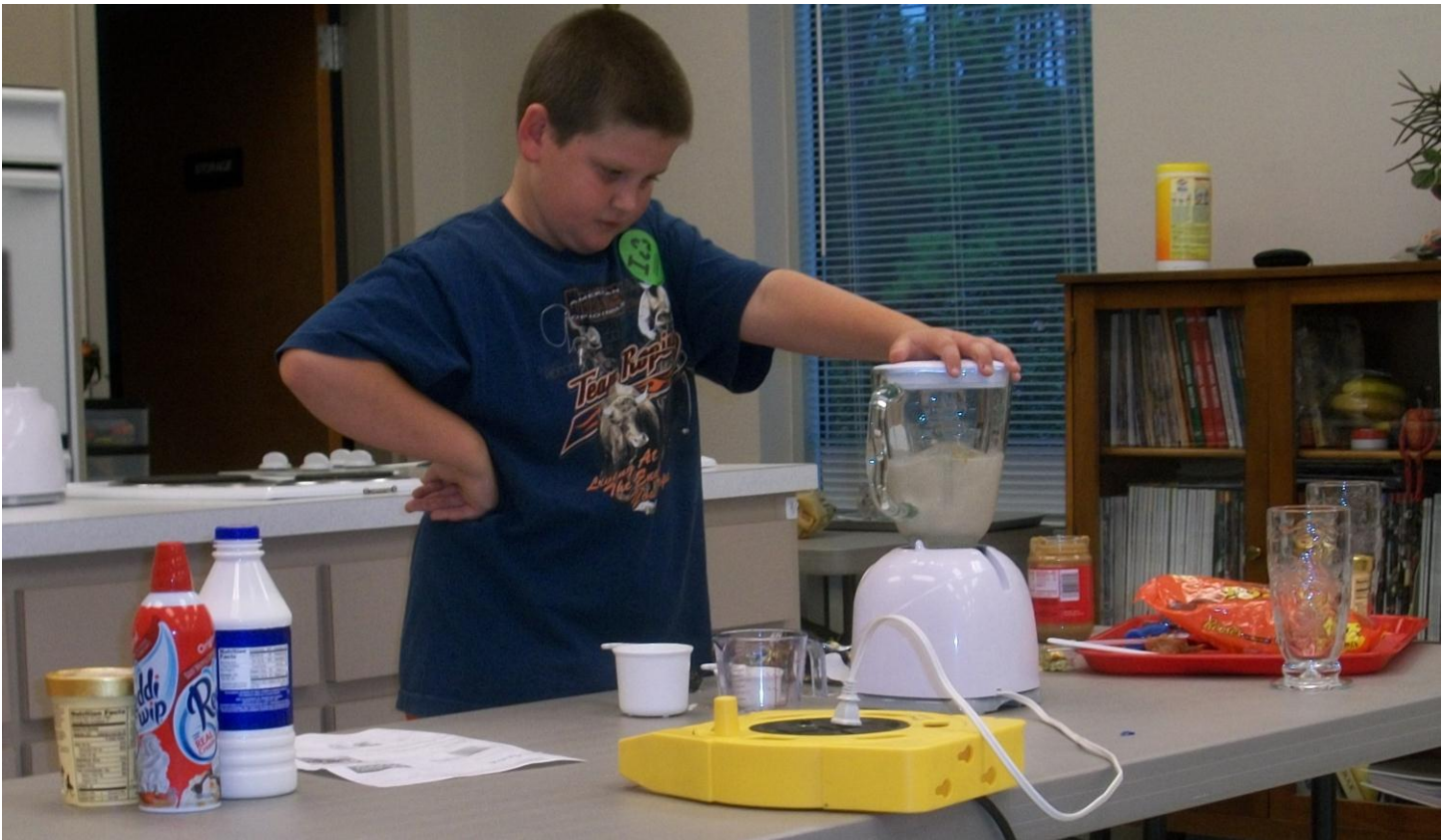
**sifted 1 cup crunchy peanut butter**

**1/2 cup milk 8 ounces frozen whipped topping,**

**thawed 1 deep-dish chocolate flavored crust**

### **Instructions :**

**In a large mixer bowl combine cream cheese and confectioners' sugar; mix well. Add peanut butter and mix. Slowly add milk and mix well. Fold in whipped topping. Pour into pie shell and cover. Freeze for at least 30 minutes. Drizzle each serving with chocolate syrup.**



**Seminole County 4H'er Payton Bishop recently competed in the "Milk Make" contest with his milkshake. He calls it "Payton's Peanut Butter Shake". Here's his "not so secret anymore" recipe.**

**Combine 1 and a half cups of vanilla Ice cream and 12 miniature peanut butter cups and a quarter cup 2% Milk, and 2 tablespoons of creamy peanut butter in a blender. Cover and process for 1 to 2 minutes or until well blended. Pour into chilled glasses.**

## **[UGA Cotton Production Workshop Feb 1, 2012](#)**

December 21, 2011

**Georgia Cotton Commission's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and UGA Cotton Production Workshop**

**Perry, GA — The Georgia Cotton Commission encourages cotton producers to plan to attend their 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and the UGA Cotton Production Workshop on February 1, 2012, in Tifton**

Registration is FREE. Please pre-register online until January 18, 2012,

at [www.ugatiftonconference.org](http://www.ugatiftonconference.org) or call 229.386.3416. Your early registration will help us plan the sponsored breakfast, breaks and lunch.

Annual meeting questions may be directed to: Richey Seaton ([gactn@windstream.net](mailto:gactn@windstream.net)) or Karen Nikitopoulos ([cotton@windstream.net](mailto:cotton@windstream.net)) at the Georgia Cotton Commission office (phone) 478.988.4235.

See details on our website: [www.georgiacottoncommission.org](http://www.georgiacottoncommission.org)



## AGENDA

### UGA Cotton Production Workshop

**SPONSORS:** University of Georgia s Georgia Cotton Commission

**7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Registration**

**8 – 8:50 a.m. Econ & Mktg; Weed Mgmt; IPM; Cotton Varieties for 2012**

**9 – 9:50 a.m. Engineering; Plant Path; Agronomics/Variety Performance & PGR Mgmt; Soil Fertility**

**Georgia Cotton Commission's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**SPONSORS: Albany Tractor Co. s Americot s AMVAC s Bayer CropScience s Boston Tractor Co. CASE IH s Cotton Growers Cooperative s Crop Production Services s Lasseter Equipment Group Monsanto s Phytogen s Southeast AgNet s Staplcotn s Valent**

**10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Welcome, Recognition of Sponsors, Commission Report**

**10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Mike Tate, President, Southern Cotton Growers**

**10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Bill Gillon, CEO, Cotton Board**

**11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Mike Watson, Vice President Fiber Quality Research, Cotton Incorporated**

***Keeping US Cotton Competitive in World Markets***

**11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. John Maguire, Sr. Director of Governmental Relations, National Cotton Council “Washington Report”**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch and sponsor recognitions; producer drawing(s)**

**1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Georgia Quality Cotton Awards**

**UGA Cotton Production Workshop**

**2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. A repeat of the morning sessions**

Later,



Rome

**Learning  
for Life**