

Seminole Crop News

Corn Harvest

Corn Harvest is going well and is getting started in several fields. Grain moisture levels are running 21 to 24%. So on farm drying is taking place, and then corn is being mostly trucked to chicken feed mills. Some will be stored as well later on and some will go to Ethanol plants. Yields are estimated at 220 bushels per acre in some fields. Lots of heat and sunshine and irrigation makes good corn. Quality looks good as well.



Here's a link to a video I took yesterday of the corn Harvest. <http://www.youtube.com/user/rethredge?feature=mhee#p/u/0/3fqfjZjGxrY>

Post Harvest Grain Management

Corn harvest has begun and we need to be careful concerning keeping insects out of stored corn. We need to use only labeled products. Most of our corn goes to chicken feed and they closely monitor pesticide residues coming in on the corn for the chicken feed.

Here's a link to the UGA Post-Harvest Grain Management site that has lots of good information <http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/gagrains/postharvest/index.html>



21 Jul

Late Planted Soybeans



Ultra late planted irrigated soybeans (after July 20) do best in drilled rows of 7.5 inches at about 170,000 to 200,000 plants per acre (minimum of 49 to 58 pounds @ 3500 seed per pound, if you get them all up, more for larger seeds and poor conditions). Successful farmers usually use a no-till grain drill just after corn harvest. If weeds are present , spray them just after corn harvest or just after planting. A preemergence residual herbicide may be used as well if needed. Farmer Raymond Thompson says to just leave the corn stalks as this will help at harvest time to get the bean plants into the combine and this saves a lot of work, expense and time, compared to disking and burning. I've seen them have the drill planting beans in the same field with the corn combine still there getting the corn out.

Here's a link to a video I took yesterday.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/rethredge?feature=mhee#p/u/1/62Brn72on7U>

The quicker you get them growing the better. Planted in corn stubble you will need to use 30-50 pounds of N to get these beans as tall as possible. We often pump the nitrogen through the irrigation system. Always plant into wet dirt, try not to plant and water up as this can form a crust, but under certain conditions you may have to water them before they crack the ground. Water after soybeans have cracked through for best results. All season irrigation is necessary for good results.



Cobb variety soybeans is your best tried and true choice. It's not Roundup Ready however so put your herbicides out quick as these beans will grow very fast. Other varieties have been used and may work well. Also watching for and treating for insects and diseases is critical. Seminole County farmers have often made 35 bu/acre and finished planting as late as the second week in August, but the later you get, the lower the yield and the riskier it is. In some years the yields are low when we have an early fall. Farmers say they like double cropping the soybeans behind corn for another reason, it keeps late season weeds down in the fields.

Jimmy Clements of Plantation Seed, Raymond Thompson, Mims Farms, Jared Whittaker and Eric Prostko contributed to this article.

20 Jul

Cotton Growth and Development

Cotton is growing and setting bolls where it's been watered. Here's a field below, that is starting to bloom. I know when it was planted because I have a photo further down with the planters in the field on May 20. Donnie Ray, Randall and Jose were putting seed in the ground.



The cotton is 50 days old and that fits in pretty closely with the chart here from the 2011 UGA Cotton Production Guide. Degree Day 60's is another way to track crop progression and on the chart you can see the accumulation of DD-60's for the growth progression.



	<u>DD-60's</u>	<u>Days</u>
From Planting to:		
Emergence	50	4 to 14
Pinhead square	550	35 to 45
First bloom	940	55 to 70
Peak bloom	1700	85 to 95
First open boll	2150	115 to 120
Harvest	2500 to 2700	140 to 160

You can go to our weather station (to get to them click on Georgia Weather Stations on links on the right on my blog) to calculate the DD-60's for your specific time frame. To do so click on Calculator on left side of main page and then on Degree Days under that and then click on Donalsonville Weather station on the degree day

calculator and chose your dates. You'll get results like I did on screenshot down below.

Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring Network
www.GeorgiaWeather.net

WARNING:
WARNING: The AEMN and this website are currently scheduled to be shutdown in late Summer 2011 due to a shortfall in dedicated funding. If funding is not committed by early July 2011, we will begin the process of decommissioning weather stations at the time of decommissioning, current data will no longer be available. For more information [click here](#).

Degree Day Calculator

Choose weather station - Donalsonville

From month? May and Day: 20 2011

To - Jul - 17 2011

Base temperature 60 °F

Disregard temperatures above 93 °F

Calculate

May-20	Jul-17	Total
2011	2011	1374
2010	2010	N/A
2009	2009	N/A
2008	2008	N/A

60 ≤ Temp < 93 °F

Plant monitoring and mapping help determine if the plant is growing and fruiting normally.

Assuming a lack of moisture stress or injury from one of many potential above or below ground pests, plant growth is primarily influenced by temperature.

Plant development proceeds approximately according to a heat unit model which uses 60 °F as the base temperature. In this system, heat units are referred to as DD-60s and are calculated based on an average daily temperature °F minus 60°F. The formula is listed below.

$$\frac{\text{Max } ^\circ\text{F} + \text{Min } ^\circ\text{F}}{2} - 60 ^\circ\text{F} = \text{DD-60s}$$

For example, a day with a maximum of 86°F and a minimum temperature of 70°F produces 18 DD-60s, [(86 + 70 / 2) 60 = (156 / 2) - 60 = 78 - 60 = 18 DD-60's].

Temperatures above 93 degrees should be entered as 93 because higher temperatures probably don't increase growth.

20 Jul

[Deep South Stocker Conference](#)



The third annual **Deep South Stocker Conference** will be held August 19, 2011 at Auburn University's [E.V. Smith Research Center](#), Shorter, Alabama. This conference is a joint effort between the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Mississippi State University Extension Service, and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

This year's conference will be a one-day event with several education seminars in the morning, and tour of the research center that afternoon. [Registration](#) for the conference cost \$75/person or \$100/couple. The seminars will cover pertinent topics in economics and marketing, forage management, health, and nutrition. In addition, a trade show will be held in conjunction with the conference to allow stocker operators the opportunity to network with industry professionals and to become aware of products and services that can improve their profitability and/or product quality.

Click here to go to registration site. <http://www.deepsouthstocker.com/>

20 Jul

Late Planted Grain Sorghum

Late planted grain sorghum aka milo is an option after corn harvest or on land not yet planted or where we failed to get a stand. It can be harvested for silage or grain. One problem is herbicides used on the first crop may hurt grain Sorghum .

Here are some keys to late planting:

Deep till if there hasn't been any deep tillage within the last few months.

Watch for chinch bugs and lesser cornstalk borers, use insecticide treated seed if possible. During flowering stage watch for midge.

Plant 50,000 to 65,000 seeds per acre on dryland and 80,000 to 100,000 seeds per acre on irrigated land. Narrow row plantings are best 14 to 22 inches.

If you use Concept treated seed you can use metolachlor herbicide at planting. Atrazine can be used on any sorghum when it has 3 leaves.

Early cold in the fall can hurt yields and test weight and make drying in field difficult.

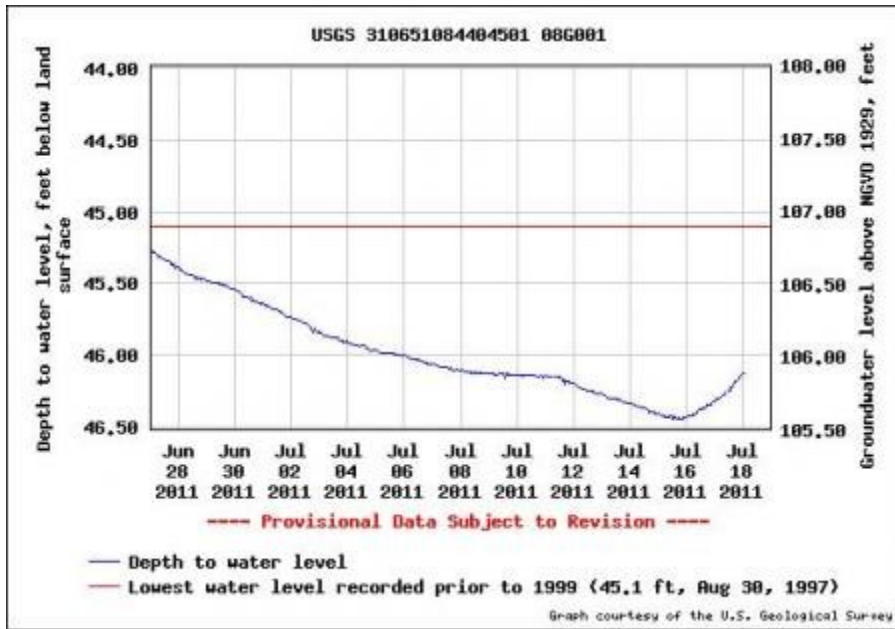
Dr Dewey Lee , UGA Extension scientist, has some good info concerning late planting of Grain Sorghum on his blog at this link.

<http://georgiagrainscrops.com/2011/06/28/216/>

18 Jul

General Rain A Blessing

The past few days we've had a great general rain and we're thankful. I thought it was at least a million dollar rain but someone said no it was at least a 10 million dollar rain. It came just right on peanuts and cotton. Peanuts are pegging and filling pods and cotton is setting and filling bolls. It's also started an upward trend on our groundwater levels.



We had water levels as low as we have them now 2 other times recently. In August of 2007 our levels got down to 47 1/2 feet and in September of 2000 we saw 46 1/2 feet and a few days ago we saw groundwater levels of 46.4 feet but we're seeing the levels rise over the past few days a little. Normal water level is 35 feet this time of year. We're fortunate to live where the groundwater levels always recharge after sustained rainfall, especially if we also get some north of us. I just went to a Peanut meeting in San Antonio, Texas and they are really hurting for water there. The dryland crops are a loss. On the local news the weatherman reported that the groundwater had dropped another half foot and was at 40 feet lower than normal.



We spent part of Saturday kayaking down Spring Creek and enjoyed the rain there.



Dryland peanuts are setting a crop here on Eddie Lynn's farm. Recent rains have been a big help, Mr Eddie says, and they couldn't come at a better time. One of his sons, Dale looks on, he planted the peanuts and there's a good stand and good yield potential.

18 Jul

Aphids Crashing Naturally

Good news about aphids. We're finding some populations naturally crashing due to a fungus that usually takes them out this time of year. It's none too soon either because they've been bad and causing growth problems in cotton for a while and many fields have been sprayed to knock them back.

Here's a photo I took of one of the cases of kill off of the aphids. The aphids are grey and fuzzy and dead.



Once we start to see the gray fuzzy aphid cadavers we expect in about a week to have control.

Later,

Rome

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