

Seminole Crop News

Question of the Week – Fertilizer Leaching

October 13, 2011

No one answered last week's question about the yellow area in a late planted corn field. It was caused by the fact that the irrigation system stopped walking over that area of the corn field one night and couldn't keep walking across the field and dumped a lot of water on that area. It leached out some of the fertilizer that had been previously applied so the plants are deficient in that area. This field is a deep sand.

This week I have a wildlife question. What is this animal I came across last week in southern Seminole County? It seemed to be sneaking up on a bird, a cattle egret.



[Saving Peanut Seed](#)

October 13, 2011

Saving peanuts for seed for next year is on some folks minds these days.

Here are some critical factors concerning saving seed given to me by Dr John Beasley, UGA Extension Peanut Scientist.

1) First and foremost, it is important to know that according to federal seed laws it is ILLEGAL to save seed of a patented cultivar. The only patents on peanut seed are those associated with the high oleic trait. The following cultivars that are currently being grown in Georgia that have the high oleic trait are: Georgia-02C (very minor amount this year), Georgia-09B (also a very minor amount due to recent release), AT-215 (very minor amount), Florida-07, and FloRun '107' (also very minor amount due to recent release). It is ILLEGAL for to save seed of Georgia-02C, Georgia-09B, AT-215, Florida-07, and FloRun '107'.

2) The remaining runner-type peanut cultivars being grown in Georgia are protected by federal seed laws as PVP cultivars. According to the seed law, a grower can save seed of a PVP cultivar to plant on their own holdings (farm). It is ILLEGAL for a grower to sell seed of a PVP cultivar to another producer. Therefore, growers can save seed of the other cultivars to only plant their own farm.



3) Saving seed sounds like a simple process, however, it can be complicated. If not handled correctly, the seed can have very poor germination the following spring. If you are planning on saving your own seed you need to consider the following:

> Peanuts being considered for saving for seed should come from a field that was IRRIGATED well during the season AND had GYPSUM applied at the level of 1,000 lbs/acre or more. I don't mean one or the other, but both conditions. If the field being considered for saving for seed did not receive gypsum AND was not irrigated, then I would absolutely not recommend saving those peanuts for seed. Considering the growing conditions we had this year, saving seed from a field that was not irrigated and did not receive gypsum is asking for poor germination.

> I've also been asked about saving and planting the smaller seed after shelling and screening. In other words, plant those seed that fall through the "18" screen, which would be smaller than the medium seed size currently used for seed. This is a huge mistake! A high percentage of the smaller seed will be immature and will not germinate.

> The peanuts being saved for seed will need to be stored over the winter in a structure that minimizes the dramatic fluctuations in air temperature and humidity we experience in South Georgia in the winter and early spring. These temperature and humidity fluctuations can cause rapid seed deterioration. The best place to store peanuts being saved for seed is in an approved, ventilated warehouse. The worst place to store farmer stock peanuts being saved for seed is in a peanut trailer sitting under a shed.

> The peanuts being saved for seed need to be monitored and treated, if necessary, for insects that typically feed on stored peanut. The insect of most concern is Indian meal moth.

> The seed will need to be shelled, screened, treated, and bagged. This will have to be arranged and handled with a custom sheller. This does not come cheap.

> A sample of the seed will need to be germination tested, preferably by the Georgia Department of Agriculture Seed Lab in Tifton.

Some producers have routinely saved seed and are already set up with the storage facility, custom shelling, treating, and bagging. A producer deciding here at harvest at the last minute they want to save seed just to save a little in production costs may actually cost themselves much more if the seed are not handled correctly.

In the case of saving patented seed, we need to understand that there have already been some steep fines (\$300,000 and more) paid by some producers in the past few years for saving seed of patented cultivars of different crops.

Sunbelt Expo Farm Show Oct. 18-20

October 13, 2011

Farm families looking to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the busy fall harvest season will soon get that chance. They are invited to attend the Sunbelt Ag Expo farm show to be held Oct. 18-20 near Moultrie, Ga.



“The Sunbelt Expo is an annual extravaganza of agricultural technology,” says Chip Blalock, the farm show’s director. “Now in its 34th year, the Expo has become North America’s Premier Farm Showtm. Our goal is to bring together more than a 1,200 exhibitors and hundreds of thousands of visitors in our 100-acre exhibit area. During three days in the middle of the week, we provide a convenient venue that allows everyone to exchange ideas and see what’s new in the business of providing safe supplies of food, fiber and shelter for American consumers.”

The Expo also gained a reputation for southern hospitality in welcoming exhibitors from throughout the U.S. and the world. “Most of our exhibitors come back year after year,” says Blalock. “We also have more than 75 exhibitors who will be attending our 2011 show for the first time.”

New for this year will be the Georgia Agriculture building near the main gate. It will feature a number of new exhibits staffed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and Georgia Farm Bureau.

Blalock says the Expo is distinct among agricultural trade shows because it gives farmers a chance to get up-close to check out new machinery working in the crop fields of a 600-acre research farm. Crops on the farm include cotton, peanuts, corn, soybeans and hay. The Expo offers rides on shaded covered shuttle wagons to carry visitors out to the fields where they'll see a wide selection of equipment taking part in the harvesting and tillage demonstrations. Visitors will also be able to test drive new GMC pickups along with some of the tractors, especially those equipped with automated steering and other precision farming technology. A new addition in the fields will be the John Deere Gator XUV Utility Vehicle Test Track.

“Again this year, we will have seminar presentations and special exhibit sections on beef cattle, dairy, horses, sheep and goats, alpacas, poultry and fish ponds,” says Blalock. “Anyone interested in raising animals would benefit from a trip to Expo.” The horse demonstrations will return this year with a new and improved facility. The new “Priefert Horse Arena” is expansive and will host sanctioned horse shows and rodeos throughout the year. The Colquitt County Saddle Club will be organizing some of the horse demonstrations, including one featuring equine Special Olympics participants.

One group of exhibits will feature portable sawmills and equipment used in forestry. Other exhibits will showcase irrigation equipment, livestock equipment, lawn and garden machinery, new pickups, utility vehicles and all terrain vehicles. Software and hardware that allows for crop yield monitoring, automated tractor steering and variable-rate application of farm chemicals will also be featured in precision farming exhibits at the show.

While most of the exhibits are geared to the interests of commercial farmers, the Expo also provides family-friendly entertainment with events such as stockdog trials and antique tractor parades. The show's hunting and fishing exhibitors will return with tips on bringing in wild game and catching trophy-size fish. Family Living exhibits will offer cooking demonstrations, seminars on backyard gardening and displays by prominent regional artist Jack DeLoney.

For the first time, the Expo will welcome a new group of visitors and exhibitors from Arkansas. Arkansas will be the Spotlight State at this year's farm show. Several agricultural agencies and organizations have joined together to spotlight the diversity of the agricultural industry in Arkansas, The Natural State. The Arkansas debut at Expo will be memorable, and visitors from throughout the Southeast are sure to enjoy it.

Tire auctions held at the Titan/Goodyear exhibit during the first two days of the show will once again raise money for the Georgia FFA Foundation.

The Expo also honors outstanding farmers by showcasing the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year awards. These farmers from nine states will be recognized at a luncheon on the opening day of the show.

The farm show has also partnered with agricultural colleges and universities from throughout the Southeast to provide information from the latest agricultural research that could benefit farmers in the region. The Albany State University Water Policy Center is the latest addition to this group. Also, check out the University of Florida's exhibit that is named "The Swamp". It will focus on the animals and natural resources to be found in Florida's wetlands.

Blalock praised the hundreds of local volunteers and others who help make the show run smoothly. "We have an incredible and dedicated group of people who come together each year to help with parking, driving the shuttle wagons, selling tickets, providing food and coordinating our field demonstrations. They really make the Expo a fun and safe educational experience for all who attend. Our goal is to help make sure that everyone leaving this show will feel good about the agricultural industry, and that they will take home equipment or information they can put to use on their own farms."

The Expo is located on Georgia Hwy. 133, southeast of Moultrie, Ga. The gates open at 8:30 a.m. each day of the show. Admission is \$10 per person or \$20 for a three-day admission ticket. Children under the age of 12 are admitted free when accompanied by an adult. For additional information, check the Expo Web site: www.sunbeltexpo.com or contact the Expo by e-mail at info@sunbeltexpo.com, or call 229-985-1968.

Thanks to Amy Willis of the Expo for this info and photo.

4-H Week

October 13, 2011

Georgia 4-H gives students the opportunity to find an interest, stimulate their learning with hands-on activities, gain public speaking skills and make friends who work to better their clubs, their communities, their country and their world.

Seminole County 4-H programs offer so much to the youths here. There is a project in 4-H that interests almost everyone. Participants find what's for them through learning and judging events, fun activities, community service or statewide competitions.

National 4-H week was celebrated October 2-8, 2011



Seminole County 4-H members painted clovers on the street in front of Seminole County Extension office on east Crawford Street



Donalsonville Major Joe Burke takes time to come out to visit with some 4-H'ers and sign proclamation in honor of National 4-H week.



Later,

Rome