Seminole County Crop news
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4H Pumpkin and Watermelon Contest

The 4H Pumpkin and Watermelon Contest is a good contest in that families work together to grow their produce and it helps young people gain an appreciation for agriculture. Here's Kellee Alday with one of this year's melons. She and her brother were award winning melon growers last year with 1st and 2nd places in the State event. She's wearing her last year's contest shirt here.

Here's some pumpkins as well that the've grown this year. You're not supposed to be able to grow good pumpkins in deep south Georgia but don't tell the Aldays that. They had 2nd and 3rd place Pumpkins last year, and it looks like they'll be in the running this year for top prizes. The Aldays are known for being good melon growers. Here's the family with some vegetables we weighed this week. Sammy and Kellee with their parents Gina and Ricky Alday.

Question of The Week- Chimeras

Last week I showed a photo of a cotton plant and asked what was the different color variation caused by. It is chimera, a genetic abberation that we see in a few plants in most any field. I saw it this week in a peanut plant.

Chimeras in botany are usually single organisms composed of two genetically different types of tissue. They occur in plants , on the same general basis as with animal chimeras. However, unlike animal chimeras, both types of tissues may have originated from the same zygote, and the difference is often due to mutation during ordinary cell division.

This week's question is concerning weed identification. Here's a weed that I'm beginning to see a little more often, mainly in peanut and cotton fields. Can You identify it and tell me what herbicides are good on it?

Peanuts Need Water and Don’t Need Pests

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Many of our peanut fields are going into a stage where they really need water.

Peanut fields planted in early May are pegging and into pod development. The water requirement for those fields would be 1.5 to 2 inches of water per week up until 3 weeks before harvest (about 120 DAP). The evapotranspiration rate is very high with the hot days and occasional scattered rainfall events. Once fields reach 50-60 DAP, then the water requirements increase.

Fields that are between 40 and 60 DAP need about 1 – 1.5 inch per week. Once they reach 60 to 70 DAP, then increase the water requirement to 1.5 to 2 inches per week. If planting one of the large-seeded cultivars such as Georgia-06G, Florida-07, Georgia-07W, and Tifguard, go with the upper end of those ranges. For Georgia Greener, Georgia Green, and Georgia-02C you can go with the lower end of the range

Here's Nicholas Smith looking at his peanuts near Lela. He's expecting good things here in a field that has an excellent rotation and irrigation. We found a few Beet Armyworms feeding but not enough to be concerned with yet. Some wasp parasitism was going on to help us out as well. In the photo you can see the "windowpaning" that young beets like to do on leaves. We've also seen some other caterpillars this week in fields and I've had a couple of calls about Lessers(LCB).

 We’re checking the flow on this irrigation system. If we have the flow measured precisely we can have a sprinkler package that puts out water the most efficient way. Thanks to Seldom Rest Farm and Steve Bailey for the use of their flow meter. We’re fortunate to have the Floridan aquifer here that is a great source of water for us. The dropping of the level has slowed a little with recent rains but we are still at very low levels.