



Georgia Crop

Improvement Association



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GCIA News Briefs

FALL 2016

I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

Recently, I took a rather lengthy trip and as usual I drove. I prefer driving rather than riding. When I drive I tend to listen more and talk less. So my traveling mate was relegated to navigating. He is one of those hi-tech people so he used his iPad rather than the traditional printed road map.

Every so often he would chime in, "you're on the blue line," meaning that I was on the correct course. After about 9 hours, the conversation began to wane as we had already discussed all the world's problems and developed solutions. This gave me time to think about the "Blue Line".

First, I think the "Blue Line" could be a great title for a country song. The "Blue" could be associated with a recent divorce, a lost love, etc. Then I recalled that in the late 50's or 60's Ford Tractor Company changed the color scheme of their tractor line from the traditional gray and red to gray and blue and promoted their lineup as the "Blue Line". The idea was that most people associate "blue" with quality. This led my fertile mind to the blue tag used in seed certification.

The "Blue Certification Tag" is the culmination of quality seed produced by quality growers, quality conditioners, quality inspectors and meeting high mechanical quality standards. My challenge is to make sure that GCIA remains a quality partner in this scheme that provides the consumer with the very best seed and turf available. A system that assures the consumer of receiving seed and turf that is true to variety and free of other crops and noxious weeds. Together, we will strive to continue to be the best of the best.

The 30th Annual Georgia Peanut Tour will be held September 13-15, 2016, in Tifton, Georgia, and the surrounding area. The tour brings the latest information on peanuts while giving a first-hand view of the industry from production and handling to processing and utilization.

For more information, visit www.georgiapeanuttour.com.



STMA Field Day at Precision Farms

On July 20th, GCIA Certification Manager Billy Skaggs attended the Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association Summer Field Day at Precision Farms in Brasleton, GA. Jonathan Holland of Precision Farms hosted the 80+ attendees and provided a tour of the farm. Precision Farms grows GCIA-certified Tifway 419 and Latitude 36 bermudagrasses. While there, Skaggs talked about the importance of buying certified sod and how the certification process works. Attendees also heard from Dr. Clint Waltz, UGA Turfgrass Specialist.



Jonathan Holland



Harvest demonstration



Holland & Josh Morrow of Super Sod

2016 Georgia Soybean Production & Efficiency Contest

The Georgia Soybean Production and Production Efficiency Contests are designed to emphasize production practices which are associated with efficient and profitable soybean production, to recognize those producers who produce high yields or produce yield efficiently, and to accumulate data on the practices utilized by those outstanding producers.

Any grower who produces soybeans in Georgia is eligible to enter the contest. A grower may make more than one entry, and are in fact encouraged to do so. In order to participate, the grower must first contact his or her local UGA County Extension Agent, at least two days prior to expected harvest, so they may be present during the harvest process and conduct the supervised yield check.

Recognition of efficiency and production winners will be made at the GA/FL Soybean/Small Grain Expo. Awards will be presented to the three highest state yields for irrigated and non-irrigated soybean. A category for ultra-late production (planted on or after July 25th in a field where corn was harvested in 2016) will be included this year, with three awards presented for three highest state yields. Summaries of yields and production practices will be made available to those interested in early 2017.

Entries should be mailed to *Dr. Jared Whitaker, 2360 Rainwater Rd., Tifton, GA 31793*. Entries should be received by December 31st. For more information on the 2016 Georgia Soybean Production & Efficiency Contest, contact your local county Extension agent or click [HERE](#) for the rules and entry forms.

GCIA Update - Peanut Inspectors Training; Inspections Continue

In preparation for the peanut field inspection season, GCIA held an inspector training on July 27th & 28th in Tifton. Along with our staff, we were joined by inspectors from Southern Seed Certification Association and Clemson University. At the training, Dr. Bill Branch, UGA Professor & Peanut Breeder, reviewed peanut varieties on a tour of his field plots. He also planted several plots of intentionally mixed varieties that were used for the training. Special thanks to Dr. Branch for his continued support of the GCIA peanut program.

With over 129,000 acres of peanuts applied for, our inspectors covered a lot of ground and racked quite a few miles. Special thanks to all the buying point managers for their assistance in helping us complete our field inspections. Up next, our inspectors will begin visiting buying points as they prepare to receive seed peanuts. Below are photos from the peanut training and a couple taken by GCIA staff while making inspections this summer.



Dr. Bill Branch & GCIA Staff



Dr. Bill Branch & GCIA Staff



Georgia-09B Peanuts



An unwelcome visitor encountered in SW Georgia

Georgia Seed Association Awards

The 2016 Georgia / Alabama Seed Association Annual Meeting was held July 10th & 11th at the King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort at St. Simon's Island. GSA President Rusty Autry, Vice President Lane Morrell, Program Chair Dr. Roger Boerma and the Board of Directors hosted an outstanding meeting attended by over 100 association members and their families. One of the highlights of the meeting was the annual awards banquet which recognized several Georgia members. The GSA Hall of Fame Award was presented by Terry Hollifield to Joe Campbell, recently retired from Golden Peanut. The GSA Distinguished Service Award was presented by Kevin Phillips to Roebbie Burriss of Pioneer. The GSA Seedsman of the Year Award was presented by Lane Morrell to Blake Fleeman of Georgia Seed Development. Also at the banquet, Morrell was sworn in as the new GSA President. Thanks to all who attended, and plan to attend the 2017 Annual Meeting hosted by the Alabama Seed Association in Sandestin.



Hollifield & Campbell



Morrell & Fleeman



Autry & Morrell

GCIA SMALL GRAINS & FORAGES BUYERS GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

The 2016 Small Grains & Forages Buyers Guide is now available online at www.georgiacrop.com. The Guide includes all Certified varieties of Bahiagrass, Bermudagrass, Field Pea, Oats, Rye, Triticale and Wheat. The publication is prepared to supply the seed trade with a list of Certified seed growers. Certification is void unless the bag carries the official certification tag. GCIA does not provide grower recommendations and any questions concerning variety performance should be directed to the UGA Department of Crop and Soil Sciences or your local county Extension office. Visit the [Statewide Variety Testing Program](#) for the most recent variety performance data including yields, maturity dates, disease resistance and insect resistance.

U.S. PEANUT CROP UPDATE – From National Agricultural Statistics Service as of Aug. 28, 2016. USA Peanut Crop rates the peanut condition as **1% Very Poor, 6% Poor, 27% Fair, 52% Good and 14% Excellent**. Last year, the crop was rated 1% Very Poor, 3% Poor, 22% Fair, 57% Good and 17% Excellent.

STATE	ITEM	Aug. 28, 2016	PREV. WEEK	Aug. 28, 2015	5-YEAR AVG.
GEORGIA	Conditions	3% VP, 9% P	25% Fair	46% Good	17% Excellent
	Soil Moisture	16% Very Short	46% Short	35% Adequate	3% Surplus
	Hot and dry conditions continue. Spotty rainfall, if any. Maturity checks are starting.				

Courtesy of Peanut Marketing News - August 30, 2016 - Tyron Spearman, Editor (110)

Fall Armyworms

UGA Entomologists Will Hudson, Cheri Abraham, and Kris Braman

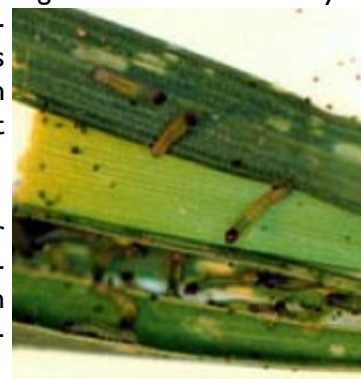
In late summer, almost every year, caterpillars invade turfgrass throughout Georgia. The damage to established turf is mostly aesthetic, but newly sodded or sprigged areas can be more severely damaged or even killed. While there are several caterpillars that can damage turfgrass, in late summer most of the problems are from [fall armyworms](#).

Hot, dry weather can intensify fall armyworm problems when egg-laying adults concentrate their eggs in irrigated, green turf. At least some cultivars of all warm season grasses are susceptible. Cool season grasses like tall fescue are very favorable for fall armyworm growth and development too, and do not regenerate as readily as the stoloniferous grasses.



Fall armyworm adults migrate northward every year from southern overwintering areas. [Adult armyworm moths](#) are active at night and females lay [eggs in masses](#) of 50 to several hundred. These night-flying moths are attracted to lights and to lighter colored surfaces. Egg masses on structures around turf (eaves and gutters, fence and porch posts, flags on golf courses) and even on taller foliage plants can be the first indicators of incipient infestations.

Eggs hatch in a few days, and the young larvae begin to feed on leaf tissue. Damage from small larvae may at first look like skeletonizing, but as the worms grow, the entire leaf is consumed. Small larvae at this time are easier to control and have inflicted less damage than full grown (35-50 mm long) larvae. Full grown larvae will soon pupate in upper soil/thatch layer and will not be susceptible to insecticides at this point.



Armyworm larvae are most active early and late in the day, spending the hotter hours down near the soil in the shade. Larvae feed for 2 to 3 weeks before pupating in the soil. Moths emerge 10 - 14 days later. The entire life cycle from egg to adult moth takes about 28 days in the warm weather of August and September.

If there is any doubt about whether worms are present, pouring soapy water on the grass (1/2 oz. dishwashing soap/gallon water) will bring them up very quickly. Heavily infested turf will also have visible greenish-black fecal pellets on the soil surface. Other indicators of armyworm infestations may include birds or even paper wasps that use the fall armyworms as food.

Control of armyworms and other turf caterpillars is relatively simple once the problem is identified. There are several pesticides from which to choose depending upon the site you are treating. Consult the UGA [Pest Management Handbook](#) or your [local Extension Agent](#) for recommendations. See the links below for contact information. Read and follow all label directions when using pesticides.

Armyworms are most active late in the day and at night, so pesticide applications should be made as late as practical for best results. It is not necessary to water after application but an application rate of 20 - 25 gallons of solution per acre as a minimum will ensure good coverage. Cutting the grass prior to application may improve control, but do not cut grass for 1-3 days after application.

For more information, visit <http://extension.uga.edu/>.



Georgia Crop

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