



Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

FALL 2022



MEMBER
Association of Official
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I've Been Thinking - Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

The wife and I have decided to “right size” our home. We are moving from our home of 22 years to the house that I was raised in about 100 yards up the country road. We have a fairly typical house for north Georgia, with a bonus room over the garage, formal dining room used maybe twice, and a basement to store stuff that you don't use and have not seen in the past 22 years. Remember, “Mother Nature does not like a void”, so our basement is full of stuff ranging from old furniture, never to be worn again clothes, stuffed snakes, some of my antique tools, etc. There is a good side to having a basement. My man cave with TV, refrigerator, grill and griddle, is in the basement but I only go there in the daylight. There is no way of telling what lurks there at night.

We built on the family farm and I needed to survey out a few acres to go with the house. It should have been fairly simple, or so I thought. It seems that if, in our county, you survey and add a new property line you must get approval from the land use and zoning department, but first, before you can get approval, you have to have an environmental study of the soil to determine if it, (soil), can handle a new septic tank, never mind that I don't need a new septic system, then you have to have the current septic system serviced. Really, how does one service a septic system? A little oil here, a little grease over here! Check the battery?

While all this is going on, the tax folks have to get involved to make sure they get their fair share. The tax folks want me to pay an impact fee for the additional police, ambulance, school, etc. NO. NO I am not adding another house nor people. There is no IMPACT. Then there is the issue with needing a building permit. I am not building anything folks. Listen, I don't want or need a new house, I ain't building anything!!!

As you may imagine, after about three weeks of this I decided it was time to bring the “Good Ole Boy System” into play. I meticulously explained to those in power that over the years the bureaucracy has gotten out of control. The bureaucracy has become, not a system to protect people and the environment, but a way to have more county jobs and slow progress. Let us just say that some battles I won and some I lost, but I am not getting a new septic system.

This brings me to my point. The day that GCIA becomes a bureaucracy that no longer meets your needs or expectations, the day we become a hindrance to progress, then that is the day you need to bring into play the “Good Ole Boy System”.

AusGAP's Mick Sutton Visits GCIA Turf Farms



GCIA hosted Mick Sutton, AusGAP Program Manager, the week of September 17-25 on his first visit to the U.S. GCIA administers the International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Program (ITGAP) program, and in 2018, formed an exclusive arrangement with AusGAP to serve as ITGAP's agent in Australia. GCIA's Billy Skaggs has visited Australia previously, and now through Sutton's visit, ITGAP continues to bolster its partnership with AusGAP.

Some of the highlights of Sutton's visit included: a tour of Dr. Earl Elsner's farm & turf trials; visiting GCIA & GSD offices & facilities; farm visits to North Georgia Turf, Super-Sod/Patten Seed & Pike Creek Turf; as well as tours of the UGA Griffin & Tifton Turf Research & Extension Programs. In addition, Sutton & Skaggs presented a seminar on the AusGAP/ITGAP program to the GCIA Executive Committee, interested turf growers and staff in Tifton.

We also managed to work in a little fun with an Atlanta Braves game on September 18th and a UGA football game on September 24th! Special thanks to all who participated/hosted Mick during his stay. Below are some photo highlights of Mick's visit.



Georgia/Florida Soybean Association and Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission Host 2022 Soybean/Small Grain Expo

The Georgia/Florida Soybean Association and The Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission invites soybean and small grain producers, users and buyers to the December 15, 2022 Soybean/Small Grain Expo, to be held at the Georgia National Fair Grounds and Agricenter, Perry, Georgia. The Expo will provide up to date marketing projections and the newest production techniques, as well as remarks from University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences leaders.

Attendees are invited to visit with our exhibitors who will be showcasing the latest in new varieties, pest control, and products.

To register for the EXPO call 706-542-3793

There is a \$20 registration fee or save money by registering in advance for only \$10.



Upcoming 2022 Ag Industry Events:

- 46th Annual Georgia Peanut Farm Show – Jan 19; <https://gapeanuts.com/46th-annual-georgia-peanut-farm-show-set-for-jan-19-2023-in-tifton/>



- Georgia Agribusiness Council Harvest Celebration – Nov 18; <https://www.ga-agribusiness.org/Events.aspx>



- Southeastern Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference – Jan 5-8; <https://seregionalconference.org/>



- GCIA Turfgrass Authorized Representative Training – Nov 15th starting at 1pm and will be hosted by Patten Seed/Super Sod-Marshallville *Contact Becki Hicks for more info and to register: call 706-542-2351 or email

becki.hicks@georgiacrop.com





2022 Acres Applied For:



CROP	ACRES
Peanuts	126,166
Turfgrass	9,950
Small Grains	4,051
Forage Grasses	1,115
Soybeans (including Corteva)	4,500
TOTAL	145,782



PEANUTS:

- Acres down slightly to approx. 126k compared to 130K acres in 2021.
- Field inspections were completed in September utilizing 4 fulltime staff & 3 part-time inspectors.
- Annual buying point training was held in Albany with 30 attendees; all relevant information was sent to buying points prior to receiving certified seed.

TURFGRASS:

- Turfgrass acres ticked up slightly to 9,950 acres applied for this year.
- 3rd round of turf inspections will be completed by the end of October.
- New turf inspection portal was used by all inspectors this year.
- Mick Sutton, AusGAP program manager visited in September.

SMALL GRAINS & BAHIA GRASS:

- 4,051 small grain acres this year which is down 1,000 acres over 2021; forage grasses acres held steady at 1,115.
- Over 20 wheat varieties in certification.
- GCIA/GSD small grain training was held at Plains in April.

SOYBEANS:

- Approx 4,500 acres of soybeans this year which is up 500 acres over 2021; majority of the acres are contract inspections for Corteva.

Turfgrass Research Field Day draws hundreds to UGA-Griffin

By Ashley N Biles for CAES News



UNIVERSITY OF
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The [University of Georgia Turfgrass Team](#) welcomed approximately 700 people — including turf industry professionals, golf course superintendents and local homeowners — to the [UGA Griffin campus](#) for the 2022 Turfgrass Research Field Day earlier this month. Attendees learned about a variety of turf-related issues from [UGA Cooperative Extension](#) specialists and other UGA researchers during the Aug. 3 event.

The day began with opening remarks from [David Buntin](#), interim assistant provost and campus director for UGA-Griffin; Doug Hollberg, Griffin mayor; and [Clint Waltz](#), UGA Extension turfgrass specialist and professor of [crop and soil sciences](#).



Waltz, who serves as the director of Turfgrass Field Day, was thrilled to bring the event back to the turfgrass industry and the state of Georgia after the event was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event is usually held every two years at UGA-Griffin.

“The day went great,” said Waltz. “Attendees were happy, vendors were happy, the interaction and enthusiasm were infectious. It seemed like Georgia’s turfgrass industry was excited to be around each other again. I’ve heard nothing but good things about the day.”

Those in attendance spent the morning visiting 10 different sites on the guided research tour, during which tour groups heard presentations on water requirements for turfgrasses with improved drought performance, turf disease management, fall armyworm and rhodesgrass mealybug research, the role of pollinators in centipedegrass, fall herbicide programs for annual bluegrass control in Bermudagrass, and computer vision-based weed mapping from UGA researchers and their teams.

Attendees were able to interact directly with researchers and ask follow-up questions after the presentations.

During the afternoon session, attendees viewed displays and demonstrations of the latest turfgrass industry equipment before participating in a self-guided research tour.

Tour stops were set up around campus focusing on graduate student research, sustainable management of dollar spot, weed control and new turfgrass herbicides, the future of golf course putting-green grasses, water efficiency improvements in warm-season turfgrasses, turfgrass response to shaded conditions, diagnosing turfgrass diseases, and Extension programs in urban agriculture.

Continuing education units (CEUs) for pesticide recertification were available for pest control professionals attending from Georgia, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Research-based field days are an ideal way for researchers to share their knowledge and expertise with industry members and the public, said Waltz, adding that the event is important to the turfgrass industry and many others throughout the state of Georgia.

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“The UGA Turfgrass Research Field Day is an opportunity for a wide array of people, from industry practitioners to homeowners, to see the scope of research that UGA scientists are involved in,” he added. “It is our opportunity to interact with industry professionals, stimulating new ideas for research or teaching new management practices, that help them be better turfgrass managers. If done right, everyone benefits from Turfgrass Research Field Day.”
 The next Turfgrass Research Field Day will be held at UGA-Griffin in 2024.



The Georgia Department of Agriculture's Guidance on

HEMP PRODUCTS

and their inclusion in human food and animal feed

2018 Farm Bill

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (or the "2018 Farm Bill") was signed into law on Dec. 20, 2018. One of the changes included removing hemp from the Controlled Substances Act, which means that cannabis plants and derivatives that contain no more than 0.3 percent THC on a dry weight basis are no longer deemed controlled substances under the federal law.

Congress added a provision allowing hemp and hemp products grown or processed under the USDA Domestic Hemp Production Program to move freely through interstate commerce.

While the Farm Bill opened the door for hemp and hemp products as agricultural commodities, it explicitly preserved the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) authority to regulate products containing cannabis or cannabis-derived compounds under the Food Drug & Cosmetic (FD&C) Act.

CBD in Food and Feed

While evaluating their authority to regulate CBD and hemp derived products, FDA came to the following determination via the FD&C Act:

Under section 301(l) of the FD&C Act, it is prohibited to introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce any food (including any animal food or feed) to which has been added a substance which is an active ingredient in a drug product that has been approved under 21 U.S.C. § 355 (section 505 of the Act) or a drug for which substantial clinical investigations have been instituted and for which the existence of such investigations has been made public.

Because FDA previously approved Epidiolex as a drug, the addition of CBD (Epidiolex's active ingredient) into human food or animal feed products renders those product "adulterated" according to the FD&C Act.

FDA approved hemp seed derived ingredients for use in human food only.

The FD&C Act provides the pathway for manufacturers to create and adopt new food and feed ingredients into their manufacturing processes. This system of approval functions as FDA's determination that a food additive or ingredient is Generally Recognized as Safe (or "GRAS").

Prior to their approval of Epidiolex, FDA evaluated and passed certain hemp products for inclusion within their GRAS index of approved ingredients. These products are:

- Hulled Hemp Seeds,
- Hemp Seed Oil, and
- Hemp Seed Protein Powder (powder ground from the seeds).

These three hemp seed-derived products have received a GRAS designation from FDA, and their use in human food is acceptable given they contain only trace amounts of THC and CBD. **These hemp seed-derived products have yet to receive GRAS status for use in animal feed.**

FDA further adds, "These GRAS conclusions do not affect the FDA's position on the addition of CBD and THC to food. As stated on FDA and Marijuana: Questions and Answers, it is a prohibited act under section 301(l) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to introduce into interstate commerce a food to which CBD or THC has been added."

Epidiolex

Prior to the passage of the Farm Bill, FDA had already approved a purified form of cannabidiol oil, or "CBD oil," for the treatment of seizures. This drug was branded as Epidiolex.

FDA's prior approval of Epidiolex has direct consequences on the use of CBD oil in both human food and animal feed.

Are hemp infused products legal?

GDA adopts the FD&C Act by reference within our regulations, and will not allow GDA licensed establishments to make food or feed products that would be deemed "adulterated," according to the FD&C Act. FDA is currently examining the issue, and GDA will review our policies accordingly.

For more info:
agr.georgia.gov/georgia-hemp-program.aspx







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