



Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

Summer 2015

I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

The core business of the Georgia Crop Improvement Association is to develop and implement a "system of seed propagation" that assures producers of an adequate supply of high quality seed. Of course, for the last 68 years that system has been the traditional limited generation seed certification program (Foundation, Registered, Certified seed).

The process of producing seed under the Certification program is not cheap. Purchasing Foundation, Registered and Certified class is affordable, but more expensive than non-certified seed. All seed in the Certification program originates with Foundation class seed. All Certified seed must be field inspected by GCIA to determine correct variety identity, freedom from other varieties and crops, no noxious weeds, etc.

All Certified Seed must be conditioned in a GCIA approved conditioning facility. Owner/operators of these facilities must attend seed short courses and be inspected annually for compliance with state and federal seed laws and GCIA standards. All Certified seed must be tested by an approved seed laboratory to validate and document seed quality relating to seed purity, identity, freedom of other crop, germination, etc.

When all these steps are completed then GCIA issues a Certification tag which is attached to each container. This tag assures producers that they are receiving high quality seed.

Complying with seed Certification rules does add to the cost of seed. However, the additional cost is only a few dollars per acre, depending on the crop, BUT the increase in yield by planting a known variety adapted to your farming area, planting seed with high germination, free of common and noxious weeds, other crops, etc. is well worth the additional cost. Demand the very best and support those vendors who market a quality product, Certified seed.

GCIA Website - www.georgiacrop.com

As many of you know, the new GCIA website was unveiled at our Annual Membership Meeting in March. While far from perfect, the site better represents the mission and interests of our members. Of particular interest to those accessing it via mobile device, the site features "responsive design" which determines what type of platform a visitor is using. One ongoing task is adding new photos to the site; this is where we need your help! If you have any digital pictures you think are representative of the seed & turf industry, please send them our way.



MEMBER
Association of Official
Seed Certifying Agencies
<http://www.aosca.org>



MEMBER
Georgia Grown
is a program of the
Georgia Department of
Agriculture
<http://georgiagrown.com>

GCIA Inspector Training - Small Grains & Turfgrass

In preparation for the Small Grain & Turfgrass inspection season, GCIA held an Inspector Training on the afternoon of April 22 in Plains. GCIA staff were joined by personnel from Georgia Seed Development, Plantation Seed Conditioners and the UGA Griffin Campus. At the training, Dr. Jerry Johnson reviewed wheat varieties on a tour of the field plots (see photos below). After looking at the plots, GCIA staff gathered at the UGA Branch Station to distribute turfgrass inspection assignments and review inspection protocols.



Do Your Part to Keep Field Inspectors Safe

GCIA policy requires that inspectors do not enter a field within 72 hours of any chemical application. As the health and safety of the inspector is involved, this policy must be given serious consideration.



Inspectors are instructed to contact certification applicants as soon as field assignments are received. The inspector will leave his/her phone number(s). If a field has had chemical(s) applied within 72 hours of the scheduled inspection, inform the inspector as to when the 72 hour post-spray restriction will expire. If application may occur in the field adjacent to one inspected, likewise inform the inspector, as wind direction and speed may subject him/her to drift. Be sure to retain the inspector's phone number so that he/she can be informed of any changes in field entry status.

On an equally important note, inform the inspector if there may be hazards due to livestock or even illegal activity in the area, and chain or pen dogs that may bite the inspector as he/she approaches. It is also helpful to inform families in rental properties surrounded by the field that there will be someone walking through the field and to make sure to control their pets. Likewise, many Georgia growers farm rented land and these landowners should also be informed in advance that GCIA inspectors will be on their property.

(Source: Kansas Crop Improvement Association Seed Source Newsletter)

69th Annual SE Turfgrass Conference held in Tifton, April 28

On April 28th, the University of Georgia Tifton Campus was the site of the 69th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference. Turfgrass researchers from various colleges and universities, including UGA, University of Tennessee, Mississippi State University and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College presented their studies and findings. The conference also featured a tour of the UGA Tifton Campus' turfgrass research plots. Highlights of the program included a presentation from Dr. Brian Schwartz, 'Release of DT-1 Bermudagrass' and an entertaining talk from David Doguet of Bladerunner Farms on his experiences working on an Olympic golf course in Brazil. GCIA was on hand along with our partners at the Georgia Integrated Cultivar Release System exhibit - Georgia Seed Development, UGA Research Foundation and UGA College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences.



South Georgia Wheat Harvest Update Rome Ethredge, Seminole County Extension Coordinator



We have begun wheat harvest in deep south Georgia. Moisture is running about 10% in some fields, depending on the variety. I've heard some 60 to 70 bushel estimated yields. Some test weights are low, but some at 60 or so reported. We are seeing shriveled kernels from disease problems, mainly Fusarium Head Blight. Look for the pink on them and it's likely Fusarium. This can cause deductions so if you are seeing pink on shriveled kernels then make sure to turn up the fans to blow most of that out. (May 21, 2015)

Georgia Department of Agriculture Establishes a Seed Laboratory Advisory Council



Realizing the importance of quality seed and in an effort to develop a closer relationship with the seed industry, the Georgia Department of Agriculture has established a Seed Laboratory Advisory Council. The Council is composed of seed producers, wholesale/retailers and buyers of seed plus organizations that support the seed industry. Commissioner Black, during the inaugural meeting, stated that the Department of Agriculture is "Charged with the responsibility to provide regulatory services, help people get into business and keep people in business."

Accurate analysis of seed is critical to the regulatory function of the department, helping people get into the seed industry and perhaps even more important keeping people in the seed industry. The Council will meet quarterly with seed laboratory management and Department of Agriculture administrators to discuss industry trends, sampling volumes and any other issues related to seed and seed analysis.

Peanuts: Weeds, Thimet, enough inoculant and 'dusting' them in

Timely weed and insect control, especially early in the peanut season with proper Thimet applications, good moisture at planting and enough field inoculant are essential for protecting peanut yields. Jay Chapin, Clemson Cooperative Extension Agronomist, offers tips on getting peanuts off to a good start.

The biggest issue with post emergence pigweed control in peanuts is TIMING! Small pigweeds don't get seen in time or when they are seen in time the sprayer might get there four days later. Pigweed can grow an inch a day and a 6" pigweed will get burnt to the ground but come back. You can't windshield pigweed control decisions.



We have had the usual annual calls about Thimet application issues. Where it is known that it failed to go out on an entire field area or significant portion of a field, the best policy is to treat 2-3 leaf peanuts (about 14 DAP) preventatively before any thrips stunting is noticed. Foliar Orthene (acephate) rates for the various formulations are: 75S: 12-16 oz, 97: 8-12 oz, 97: 9-13 oz. From what I have seen so far, both Thimet and Admire Pro (or generic imidacloprid) are standing up well to thrips pressure. Imidacloprid usually does a little better, but the major problem with Thimet is stopped tubes.

Should I "Dust-In" peanuts? Probably not, and certainly not on new peanut land. Inoculant is too important on new land to not have a chance to survive in decent soil moisture. Even on rotated land where we can usually get by without full inoculation, they won't germinate until it rains anyway. Odds are it will only cost a couple more days after a rain to get them planted.

Inoculant did not go out. What now? If the land has been in peanuts within the past three years, it's more likely than not that there is enough residual bacteria (*Bradyrhizobium*) out there to carry the crop. Don't borrow trouble yet, give them a chance to make it on their own. If it is new land and you know that no inoculant went out, just plan on feeding N (120 – 150 units). They should be OK for the first 30 days and we don't want to go too early and lose most of the N before they can use it. If you can make two trips, spread 50-60% at 30 DAP and the rest by about 60 DAP. If you can only go once, put it all out about 30-35 DAP.

If it is new land with partial application failure suspected and you don't know how many rows or what area is lacking how much of the inoculant, the best option is usually to wait for the first signs of deficiency (yellowing) to show up and go from there. It might be that only part of a field needs supplemental N. If there is going to be a problem, it will show up by 45 DAP.

(Excerpted from article in SE Farm Press, May 28, 2015; www.southeastfarmpress.com)

DON'T FORGET - Certified Peanut Seed Applications DUE June 15th

The deadline for submitting applications for crop inspection for seed peanuts is fast-approaching. All eligible seed producers should have received an application packet in the mail and via email. Please complete all forms and return to GCIA along with payment and proof of planting. Be sure to make a copy of the application and proof of planting or other documentation for your records. Should you have any questions or need anything else, please give us a call. We look forward to working with you in 2015.



Georgia Crop

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