



# Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

SPRING 2016



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

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[www.georgiagrown.com](http://www.georgiagrown.com)

## I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

The GCIA Annual Membership Meeting is rapidly approaching - March 24 to be exact. So I've been thinking about programs, current topics to discuss, and all the other things that go into planning a meeting. This year, we celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> year as an association! That is quite an achievement. Seventy years, WOW! I began to ponder the question: why have we been successful for all these years? What is the secret?

I have no doubt that the secret is the result of an active membership. A membership that has enough interest and desire to elect a representative board of directors to guide the association and be accountable. High attendance at our annual meetings and short courses support my idea of an active membership. And remember membership participation has been strong for seventy years, across several generations, different crops, economic conditions, etc. Originally, the association was composed of producers of forage grasses & clovers, later on cotton & soybeans, and now peanuts and turfgrass producers. What is it that unifies our membership?

I submit to you that it is the "farmer" in all our members. The desire to be independent, but not live in a vacuum. The knowledge that what we do is for the good of other farmers and not just self-serving. The idea that we live on hope and a strong desire to move forward.

I think our friend Mr. Paul Harvey had a sincere appreciation for the American Farmer. If you doubt this, watch the video, "So God Made a Farmer" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRDaPEaDJ7E>. I suspect that are a lot of places in Harvey's presentation that "seedsman" could be inserted in place of "farmer."

## Application Deadlines

Don't forget to submit your application for membership and crop inspection on time. Current deadlines are as follows:

March 1	Turfgrass
March 15	Pecan Trees, Miscanthus & Perennial Peanuts
April 1	Forages (Bermuda, Bahia, Tall Fescue, Clovers)
April 1	Small Grains (Oats, Wheat, & Barley)
June 15	Peanuts
July 1	Cotton, Sorghums, Southern Peas & Lespedeza
August 15	Soybeans & Millet

To check out the Certification Standards section of the website, click [HERE](#).

## 2016 GCIA Peanut Seed Short Course



All peanut industry members are invited to attend the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Peanut Seed Short Course on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. Registration will begin at 8:30 am and the program will conclude at 12:30pm.

Speakers & topics include:

**Peanut Market Forecast; Tyron Spearman, National Peanut Buying Points Association**

**Peanut Fertility: Calcium & Boron; Dr. Glen Harris, UGA CAES**

**Insect Update: Burrower Bug; Dr. Mark Abney, UGA CAES**

**Peanut Production Update; Dr. Scott Monfort, UGA CAES**

**Georgia Peanut Commission Update; TBD**

**TSWV & Leaf Spot Resistance in Peanut; Dr. Albert Culbreath, UGA CAES**

**State Seed Lab Update; Scott Hobby, GA Dept. of Agriculture**

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**GCIA APPROVED PLANT REPRESENTATIVES AND PEANUT BUYING POINT REPRESENTATIVES ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST ATTEND A SEED SHORT COURSE ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS FOR THE CONDITIONING PLANT OR BUYING POINT TO REMAIN ON THE APPROVED LIST.**

To RSVP, contact Joy at the GCIA office at 706-542-2351 or email [joy.mccracken@georgiacrop.com](mailto:joy.mccracken@georgiacrop.com) by Friday, April 1st. For more information, visit the GCIA website or click [HERE](#).

## GCIA On The Road in 2016!

In January, Hollifield, Crane, Luke, Kessler & Skaggs attended the Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference in Savannah to promote the food safety & organic certification programs. This year's Southeast Regional was one of the biggest yet with over 3,500 in attendance. Also in January, GCIA exhibited at the Georgia Peanut Farm Show in Tifton. During the show, Hollifield had the opportunity to address attendees at the annual Seed Seminar. It was a great chance for staff to visit with industry members and friends. And at the end of the month, Skaggs along with Blake Fleeman & Doug Batchelder of GSDC exhibited at the Georgia Green Industry Association Winter Green Conference in Duluth.

In February, Hollifield attended the Golf Industry Show in San Diego along with Blake Fleeman of GSDC, Shelley Fincher of UGARF and GCIA members from North Georgia Turf and The Turfgrass Group. While there, they promoted Georgia's Integrated Cultivar Release System (GICRS) and the International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Program (ITGAP). About the same time the golf show was going on in California, Skaggs attended the National Peanut Buying Points Association Conference and provided an update on 2016 seed quantity & quality. Finally, in late February, Crane and Luke attended the Georgia Organics Conference in Columbus.

## Powdery Mildew in Wheat

Brock Ward, Miller County Extension Agent

(Posted February 23, 2016)

Today while checking some wheat fields, I noticed some powdery mildew in the lower canopy. This disease isn't particularly a problem for us but under the right conditions, can warrant treatment.

We will keep an eye on this as the season progresses to ensure it doesn't work its way to within a leaf or two of the flag leaf. Many years this is not a major concern but we should be aware of its presence so we don't confuse it with wheat rust.

Dr. Alfredo Martinez, UGA Plant Pathologist, has this to say about powdery mildew on wheat:



“Powdery mildew is usually the first leaf disease to appear in the spring because the disease is favored by temperatures between 50 degrees and 70 degrees F. The disease usually declines after flowering, when temperatures rise above 75 degrees F (24 degrees C).

Powdery mildew can infect plants in the fall and survive in the invaded tissue during the winter. Early infection can result in reduced tillering of susceptible varieties. Thus, spores may come from earlier infections within the field or from fields farther away. Dense stands, high nitrogen fertility, and rapid plant growth increase susceptibility.

Under such conditions a variety listed as having “good” resistance may become heavily infected. As the stem elongates and temperatures increase, conditions become less favorable for powdery mildew.”

The following chart will give you an idea as to the disease susceptibility of the variety of wheat that you have planted: <https://blog.extension.uga.edu/spring-creek/2016/02/powdery-mildew-in-wheat/>

To read more from Brock's blog, visit [Spring Creek Extension News](#).

## Seed Lab Update - February 26

Scott Hobby, Laboratory Program Director

The seed lab has received 3,513 samples for the month of February.

Peanut Quality Update: *Certified Seed* continues to look good for the entire State of Georgia (Avg. low 90's to high 80's). Florida peanuts this week seemed to dip down into the 70's & 60's on some lots with mold issues (*a-flavus*). Alabama peanut quality improved this week overall. Texas peanuts continue to be also very high quality this week (90's).

Cowpeas & Soybeans Update: Overall low germinations continue with these crops.

Equipment Update: We have four walk-in chambers in the lab. One of the chambers has been down this week due to a voltage fluctuation in some wiring. Parts were shipped down to Florida for repair. Projected repair time should be next week. Peanut volume has only required two chambers this winter so we have not be adversely affect by the downed chamber.

## GCIA Celebrates 70th Anniversary at Annual Meeting

The Georgia Crop Improvement Association Board of Directors invites all members and industry friends to a reception in recognition of GCIA's 70th Anniversary on Wednesday March 23rd at the Holiday Inn Downtown Athens. The reception will be held in the University Room from 6pm to 7:30 pm. The Holiday Inn is located at 197 East Broad Street, Athens, Georgia.

The GCIA Annual Membership Meeting will be held the following day on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Downtown Athens (197 East Broad Street). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting should conclude by 4pm. You may contact the Holiday Inn at (706) 549-4433 for hotel reservations. Please mention "GCIA" for the reserved room block. Please RSVP before close of business March 15, 2016 by calling the office (706) 542-2351 or email [joy.mccracken@georgiacrop.com](mailto:joy.mccracken@georgiacrop.com).

Topics and speakers for the day include:

- Update from the American Seed Trade Association; Pat Miller, ASTA
- Reducing crop loss due to climate variability; Dr. Steve McNulty, USDA
- GMO's - What they are & what they are not; Dr. Roger Boerma, GSDC
- State Seed Lab - Moving in the right direction; Dr. James Sutton, GA Dept of Agriculture
- The UGA Griffin Campus - 128 years in the making; Dr. Lew Hunnicutt, UGA CAES

In addition, members will be treated to the annual awards luncheon and have the opportunity to attend GCIA Commodity Committee Meetings that afternoon. We hope you will make plans to attend!



## Pesticide drift training provided by UGA CAES & GDA

The University of Georgia and Georgia Department of Agriculture have collaborated to provide a series of **required classroom trainings for the use of auxin herbicides (2,4-D or dicamba) in auxin-tolerant seed technologies**. The 2016 crop year will be the first time these cotton and soybean seed technologies are available for use in Georgia. No doubt they will prove helpful for the control of glyphosate resistant pigweed and other weeds.

Even though 2,4-D and dicamba have been used effectively for decades without this required advanced use training, the Georgia Department of Agriculture decided to require attending a "Using Pesticides Wisely" training prior to making applications of dicamba to dicamba-tolerant cotton/soybean or 2,4-D to 2,4-D-tolerant cotton/soybeans in Georgia. The training will focus on helping applicators/growers make wise decisions when applying not only 2,4-D and dicamba, but all pesticides.

Growers that attended trainings during 2015, as long as they registered, are not required to attend the meeting again. **Drift prevention or reduction is important for all product uses.**

[Click here for the list of "Using Pesticides Wisely" workshop dates and locations.](#)

Source: GA Agricbusiness Council's Inside Agriculture Report - Week 7; Feb 26, 2016.

## SE Turfgrass Conference set for April 26 in Tifton

The 70th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference is set for Tuesday, April 26 at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. This event is organized by the UGA Tifton Campus and ABAC, in cooperation with USDA ARS, US Golf Association, GA Golf Course Superintendents Association, GA Urban Ag Council and UGA Cooperative Extension.

The agenda is packed with great speakers and topics, including:  
UGA - Joe West, Brian Schwartz, Luellen Swayzer, Amanda Webb, Jonathan Fox

ABAC - James McCrimmon, Alan Murphy; UF - Jing Zhang  
Industry - Ken Morrow, The Turfgrass Group; Steve Kammerer, USGA; Jarrell Cooper, Waters Labs; and Derek Settle, Bayer.

Lunch is sponsored by Georgia Crop Improvement Association & Georgia Seed Development with breaks sponsored by the UGA Research Foundation.

If attending the FULL conference on Tuesday, you are invited to join other attendees for dinner on Monday evening at 6:30pm at the Golf Club of South Georgia (3922 US Hwy 41N, Tifton) courtesy of **The Turfgrass Group**.

For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).



APSA 2016 Industry Spring Conference is scheduled for March 7-9, 2016 in Albany, Georgia.

For more information, visit the American Peanut Shellers Association online at [www.peanut-shellers.org](http://www.peanut-shellers.org).

Committee meetings will be held on Monday and Tuesday, March 7th and 8th at the Association Office. The American Peanut Shellers Association will host their members for a reception from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening, March 8th at the Association Office. The general session will be held on March 9th at the Merry Acres Conference Center.

Speakers include: Kris Balkcom, Alabama Extension Agronomist; Karl Zimmer, Premium Peanut, LLC; Stephanie Grunenfelder, American Peanut Council; Roderick Gilbert, Center for Agribusiness Innovation; T.E. Moyer, Georgia Federal-State Inspection Service; and Darlene Cowart, The Peanut Institute.



# Georgia Crop

## Improvement Association

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### **OFFICERS**

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