



Georgia Crop

Improvement Association



MEMBER
Association of Official
Seed Certifying Agencies
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INSIDE

Annual Meeting Highlights	2
GA / AL Seed Assoc. Annual Meeting	2
Training & Inspections	3
GSD / GCIA Welcomes Summer Interns	3
Peanut Crop Update	4
ASTA Launches New BetterSeed Website	4
Certified Peanut Seed Applications Due 6/15	4
GCIA in the News	5
SE Turf Conference	5
Seed Lab Update	5



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GCIA News Briefs

SUMMER 2016

I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

The first week of May the Georgia Crop Improvement Association hosted the first International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Program (ITGAP) Conference for international growers and inspectors of fine-leaf Bermuda, Paspalum and Zoysia grasses. The two day event covered inspection and reporting protocols, grass identification and a field exercise. Growers and inspectors from Australia, Singapore, South Africa, Brazil, Spain and the US were in attendance. Despite the fact that I speak Southern English (yes that is a true dialect) and no Spanish, we seemed to be able to communicate.

The ITGAP production and inspection protocols mirror our domestic turfgrass certification program. Of course, the intent is to assure consumers worldwide of receiving turfgrass varieties that are correctly identified and free of contaminants. The program certifies both university and privately developed turf varieties.

In addition, the program offers a mechanism for monitoring and collecting any royalties that may be due to the variety developer. ITGAP is utilized by US golf course builders and architects who work for international clients and recognize the need for high quality grass. For more information on ITGAP, please visit our web site at www.ITGAPTURF.org.

Special thanks to Pike Creek Turf in Adel, Georgia for the use of their farm for the field exercise. The Allen's were gracious hosts. The Pike Creek Barn was a perfect location for the introduction of fried food to the attendees from those countries that don't fry food. I used it as a training opportunity to reinforce the fact that "If it flies in the sky or swims in the water, it should be fried".



GCIA Annual Meeting Highlights

The GCIA Annual Meeting activities kicked off with a reception in honor of the Association's 70 Anniversary at The Holiday Inn, downtown Athens. The reception was a festive occasion with many longtime members and friends attending. Attendees enjoyed displays highlighting GCIA's past including photos and other memorabilia, as well as music from a local jazz band. The high point of the meeting came when Terry Hollifield, GCIA Exec. Director, and Dr. Roger Boerma, Georgia Seed Development Exec. Director, surprised Doug McWhorter, who recently retired from GSD. Dr. Boerma and his staff invited many of Doug's friends and family and somehow kept it all under wraps until the very last minute. Congratulations again to Doug on his retirement! As result of Doug's tireless efforts, Georgia's seed industry is better off!

At the Annual Membership Meeting on the 24th of March, GCIA members heard from a variety of speakers including Dr. Laura Perry Johnson, Assoc. Dean for Extension; Dr. James Sutton, Operations Director at the Georgia Department of Agriculture; Scott Hobby, Seed Lab Manager; and Pat Miller, American Seed Trade Association. At the luncheon, Jimmy Clements received the Distinguished Service Award and Joe Campbell was recognized on his recent retirement from Golden Peanut and Tree Nuts, LLC. Both of these men have contributed greatly to their respective industries.

Also at the luncheon, Johnny Luke, GCIA Organic Manager, was recognized for 40 years of service, and Terry Hollifield was recognized for 45 years of service. A special presentation was made by Terry's longtime friend, Ken Morrow of The Turfgrass Group, LLC (see photo).



Don't miss GA / AL Seed Assoc Meeting

The Georgia Seed Association invites you to attend the 2016 Georgia / Alabama Seed Association Annual Meeting on July 10-11, 2016 at the King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort at St. Simon's Island. President Rusty Autry, Vice President Lane Morrell, Program Chair Dr. Roger Boerma and the Board of Directors have a great program planned, including:

- “Food Safety” – Beth Olesen, Produce Food Safety Services
- “GMO Issues: Limitations to Approval” – Doug Rushing, Monsanto
- “Food Labeling” – Andrew Walmsely, American Farm Bureau
- “Smart Irrigation” – George Vellidis, University of Georgia, Tifton Campus
- “Waters of the United States” - Jeffery Harvey, Georgia Farm Bureau

Of course, there are great meals planned as well activities for the entire family. We hope you'll join us July 10-11 at the King & Prince for the GA / AL Seed Association Annual Meeting. If you are not a member of Georgia Seed, we invite you to join us. Our members include a cross-section of agriculture representing virtually all commodities and related agribusinesses.

The Mission of the Georgia Seed Association is to promote an industry that provides high quality products and excellent service to our customers while encouraging the highest level of integrity in our business practices.

GCIA Update - Training held in Plains; Inspections ongoing

In preparation for the Small Grain & Turfgrass inspection season, GCIA held an Inspector Training on April 21 in Plains. GCIA staff were joined by personnel from Georgia Seed Development, UGA Griffin Campus, and Plantation Seed Conditioners. At the training, Dr. Jerry Johnson, along with new wheat breeder Dr. Mohamed Mergoum, reviewed wheat and oat varieties on a tour of the field plots. This year, GCIA will inspect 5,000 acres of wheat, rye, oats, field peas, and triticale. While at the UGA Branch Station, GCIA staff also met to distribute turfgrass inspection assignments and review inspection protocols. Below are photos taken by GCIA staff while making their inspections this spring.



Cosaque Oats



Wrens Abruzzi Rye



ESO Peas



Tifway Bermuda

GSD / GCIA Welcome Summer Interns

On May 11, Georgia Seed Development & GCIA welcomed two new interns onboard for the summer semester – Turner Spratling and Brendan Fatzinger. Turner is an agriscience & environmental systems major, and Brendan is a horticulture major. These young men stood out among an excellent slate of candidates and have already hit the ground running.

In addition to working alongside GSD and GCIA staff, Turner & Brendan will also be participating in the UGA graduate level class – the Plant Breeding Practicum – thanks to instructors Dr. Brian Schwartz & Dr. Paul Raymer. Below you will see Turner & Brendan during a visit to Bostwick Sod with GCIA's Billy Skaggs. Thanks to Mark Ruark of Bostwick Sod for allowing us to show the guys around.



US Peanut Crop Update

From National Agricultural Statistics Service as of May 15, 2016. USA Peanut Crop is estimated planted at 46% this week, 27% last week, 41% last year and 40% 5-Year average.

STATE	ITEM	May 15, 2016	PREV. WEEK	May 15, 2015	5-YEAR AVG.
GEORGIA	Peanut Planted	49%	29%	44%	41%
	Soil Moisture	11% Very Short	50% Short	33% Adequate	6% Surplus
	Cotton, peanuts and soybeans are still being planted. Starting to run short on moisture to get some of the dryland fields planted and in serious need of moisture to continue.				

“Amseed” is Now “BetterSeed”



The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) has a new website - BetterSeed.org is the go-to source for all information related to the research, development and movement of quality seed to meet the world's demand for food, feed, fiber and fuel.

“We are thrilled to offer this new and improved online resource to better serve our members, industry allies, policymakers and the general public who are looking for information about seed, seed improvement and the key policy issues that impact our industry,” said ASTA President and CEO Andrew LaVigne. “So many of the things that enhance our quality of life can be traced to a seed someone planted. From the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, to the fuel that powers our cars – it all starts with a seed. Our new website helps bring this story to life.”

The website showcases ASTA’s refreshed branding and supports the association’s public communications initiative to educate consumers about the connection between better seed and better life. In addition to seed improvement messages, www.BetterSeed.org offers information for policymakers about key legislative and regulatory issues impacting the seed industry; industry FAQs covering plant breeding, GMOs, organics, seed treatment, and other topics; publications and resources for the media; and information on upcoming industry meetings.

To learn more about the many quality-of-life benefits of seed, visit www.BetterSeed.org.

REMINDER - Certified Peanut Seed Applications DUE June 15

The deadline for submitting seed peanut 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 the necessary all forms and return to the GCIA office along with payment proof of planting and certification fees. 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 2016.

GCIA in the News

Billy Skaggs, GCIA Certification Manager, has an article in the latest issue of *Urban Ag Council Magazine* entitled "Select for Success – When only the best will do, ask for certified sod". In the article, Billy outlines the benefits of certification and promotes the GCIA Turf Buyers Guide.

To read the article, visit https://issuu.com/georgiaurbanagcouncil/docs/uacmag_mayjun2016_online/50.

Thanks to UAC for helping get the word out about GCIA Certified Sod!

Highlights from the SE Turfgrass Conference

The 70th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference was held Tuesday, April 26 at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference. GCIA was proud to partner with Georgia Seed Development as lunch sponsors. (See photos below)



Dr. Brian Schwartz, UGA Turfgrass Breeder, addressed SE Turf Conference attendees during a tour of the turf plots on the Tifton Campus. Several of his graduate students also provided updates on their research projects. Over 100 turf professionals from across the state attended the conference.



Dr. Brian Schwartz recognized Dr. Paul Raymer, UGA Turf Breeder; Aaron McWhorter, NG Turf; Terry Hollifield, GCIA; Ben Copeland, Jr. Super-Sod; and Ken Morrow, The Turfgrass Group for their support of the UGA Turfgrass Program. They received glass window frames from the first turf greenhouse at the UGA Tifton Campus.

Georgia Seed Lab Update Scott Hobby, Program Director

The seed lab numbers for the FY 2016 year are as follows: 1,931 official samples; 6,482 service (Farmer) samples; 10,305 certified samples. The lab currently has 17 employees (13 full time & 4 temporary) which is the highest number we have ever had on staff for the Tifton lab. The higher numbers have allowed the program to decrease the turnaround time of all major crops to seven days. This makes us one of the most efficient labs in the country. Our peanut season for the lab was a great success. In the 28 years of being opened, it is the first time we ever processed over 12,000 peanuts samples with zero delays. Thanks to all the hard work of the Seed Lab Advisory Council and Commissioner Gary Black we have *rebuilt* our seed program to be one of the top in the nation.



Georgia Crop

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