



Georgia Crop Improvement Association



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GCIA News Briefs

WINTER 2021

I've Been Thinking - Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

Fortunately 2020 is in the rear view mirror and 2021 is here. The year 2021 is already looking better for GCIA. Early peanut seed testing strongly indicates better seed quality this year than in 2020. Our dreaded enemy, the fungi *Aspergillus*, appears to be present at lower infection rates than last year resulting in higher germination and emergence. We are also optimistic that turfgrass acres will rise due to the continued surge in home building.

Like many of you reading this column, we are already planning for our 2021 season; conditioning facility inspections, inspector training, field inspections, audits, etc. This got me to thinking. The state of Georgia has deemed agricultural workers as essential. Really? At least someone knows that producing, processing and shipping are essential to getting food into grocery stores. Many believe that food just magically appears.

I sincerely hope our clients consider certification as essential. Certification programs are developed to assure the consumer receives a quality product, identified correctly and accurately labeled. Our third party certification program protects our clients by providing fair and impartial inspections, auditing, testing, and reporting. Certification adds value to our clients' seed and turfgrass.

I hope we are looked upon as a partner in their businesses, as a promoter of not only their particular business but also of the entire seed/turf industry. We encourage you to use our GCIA logo in promoting your business. We have published many brochures for distribution that promoted seed and turfgrass certification, clearly explaining the advantages of purchasing a certified product.

Remember, we want and need for your certified seed and turfgrass business to grow and prosper, for without YOU there is no US.

UGA Extension Peanut Production Meetings

The UGA Peanut Team is holding county production meetings virtually. Specialists will discuss topics covering agronomics, fertility, irrigation, pest management, and economics with recent field trial results. Pesticide and CCA license credits are being applied for and will be available for attendees. Two chances remain to participate: February 18 & 22. To register, click [HERE](#). Thanks to the Peanut Team for holding these events.



American Peanut Shellers Association Spring Conference - March 3

The APSA Industry Spring Conference will be held on March 3, 2021 at 9:00 AM. Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's event will take place virtually. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME & REPORT

- Jamie Brown, APSA President & Vice President, Olam Peanut Shelling Company

ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORT

- Patricia Moody, APSA Sales Task Force Chair & Sales Manager, Olam Peanut Shelling Company

A WASHINGTON OVERVIEW

- Bob Redding, President, United States Peanut Federation

AFLATOXIN TASK FORCE

- Karl Zimmer, President & CEO, Premium Peanut

- Mike Jackson, President, JLA International

THE PEANUT INSTITUTE UPDATE

- Ali Hill, TPI Chair & General Manager - Specialty Products, Golden Peanut & Tree Nuts

MANUFACTURER UPDATES:

The J.M. Smucker Company

- Jake Calhoun, Director of Brand Strategy

Campbells Snacks

- Chris Collins, Director - Peanuts & Tree Nuts

U.S. PEANUT CROP - PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 2021

- Dr. Scott Monfort, Extension Peanut Agronomist, UGA Cooperative Extension



AMERICAN
PEANUT SHELLERS ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1919

COVID-19 Safety Precautions & Cancellation of Seed Short Courses

As we are beginning to conduct approved plant inspections, we feel it is prudent to remind our members and staff to take the necessary safety precautions as it relates to the coronavirus pandemic. To proceed with inspections effectively and safely, we ask for your cooperation with the following guidelines:

Inspectors will wear masks and follow the six-foot social distancing rule; no handshaking; and signatures on inspection documents will not be required. If an adverse action is found, inspectors will communicate via email to the client and request an electronic signature.

We certainly understand that there are situations when the above is not adequate or feasible. In those situations, think safety first and plan accordingly.

In addition, GCIA will not be conducting the Small Grain, Soybean & Grass Seed Short Course nor the Peanut Seed Short Course this year. While we certainly enjoy seeing everyone at these events, we feel this decision is in the best interest of our members and staff. As a result of this decision, all GCIA authorized representatives will be extended for one year.

2021 Georgia Sod Producers Survey - Summarized from an article by Dr. Clint Waltz, UGA Turfgrass Specialist

The Georgia Urban Ag Council conducted their twenty-sixth survey of sod producers. The purpose of the survey was to determine the status of inventory levels and projected price changes for spring 2021. Due to an insufficient sampling size of the industry, there was not a 2020 sod survey. This year's results will be compared to 2019 responses. In 2020, 20 producers participated in the survey, representing farm sizes which were less than 300 acres (7 participants), 300 to 600 acres (7 participants), 601 to 900 acres (2 participants), and more than 900 acres (4 participants).



The survey obtained estimates of the inventory for bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass, and tall fescue based on estimated sales for the first five months of 2021 as excellent (more than 10% of demand), adequate (equal to demand), and poor (more than 10% shortage). Pricing information included farm price and price for truckload orders to the Atlanta area or within 100 miles of the farm, all costs were reported as price per square foot of sod.

Inventory Levels

Bermudagrass is being grown by all the surveyed producers. Fifty-five percent of the producers rated their inventory as adequate to excellent this year (Figure 1). Two-thirds of the growers with greater than 600 acres expect an adequate to excellent bermudagrass supply, while half of the producers with 600 acres or less project having sufficient inventories. For early 2021, bermudagrass may be in shorter supply than previous years.

The number of producers growing zoysiagrass (80%) was like previous years. Zoysiagrass is a popular species with many commercially available cultivars. There are at least fifteen zoysiagrass cultivars being grown in Georgia. Of the producers responding, 44% estimate an adequate to excellent inventory, which is lower than 2019 (Figure 2). Of the larger producers, half have a poor supply moving into 2021. Insufficient zoysiagrass inventory is greater (60%) for producers with less than 600 acres in production.

Of the 20 producers surveyed, 11 (55%) were growers of centipedegrass. Fifty-five percent of the growers had adequate to excellent inventory compared to 80% in 2019, and 75% in 2018. Of the larger growers, 3 of 5 growers with greater than 600 acres expect an excellent to adequate centipedegrass supply.

St. Augustinegrass is being grown by 5 of the 20 producers surveyed. Eighty percent reported a sufficient supply.

Similar to previous years, tall fescue was grown by 45% of producers. Sixty-seven percent of tall fescue producers reported excellent to adequate inventory. This is a slight decrease relative to the previous 15 years tall fescue has been surveyed. While it appears tall fescue inventory will likely meet demand, there is a greater potential for limited supply relative to the past.

For more information and to view the complete survey, click [HERE](#).

Special thanks to Dr. Clint Waltz, UGA Turfgrass Specialist & Mary Kay Wooworth, UAC Executive Director.

UGA Ag Forecast & Ag Snapshots

Provided by: UGA CAES

The 2021 UGA Ag Forecast was held virtually on January 29th. To view the presentations, click [HERE](#). In addition, the 2021 Ag Snapshots publication is now available online - click [HERE](#). The following is an excerpt from the publication.

“Agriculture, a driving force for local economies across Georgia, has long shaped the state’s history. The 2021 Ag Snapshots report on Georgia’s agricultural economy is based on the 2019 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report, an annual, county-level economic valuation for all food and fiber production in the state. Together these commodities directly represent a value of over \$13 billion to the Georgia economy.

Beyond their farm gate values, these commodities form a foundation for our diverse agricultural supply chain, providing key resources to many sectors and adding value within the economy. Ag Snapshots provides the output and jobs supported by food and fiber production, which include the directly related industries along the supply chain – **the total economic contribution** – to highlight the importance of the agricultural economy to Georgia. In 2019, food and fiber production and related industries represented \$70.1 billion in output to Georgia’s \$1.12 trillion economy and more than 359,220 jobs in the economy.”

Source: [UGA CAES](#)

Food and fiber production plus directly related processing and indirect sectors

Contributes...



The Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development | University of Georgia | Ag Snapshots 2021

Top 10 Georgia Commodities by Value

BROILERS \$4.0 billion 31.0% of total	GREENHOUSE \$476.5 million 3.7% of total
COTTON \$983.6 million 7.6% of total	CORN \$321.4 million 2.5% of total
TIMBER \$679.5 million 5.2% of total	HAY \$306.2 million 2.4% of total
BEEF \$666.1 million 5.1% of total	DAIRY \$306.0 million 2.4% of total
PEANUTS \$663.0 million 5.1% of total	PECANS \$263.4 million 2.0% of total

Landscape Pro University

Landscape Pro University (LPU), powered by Georgia Urban Ag Council and SiteOne Landscape Supply, was held on Wednesday, January 27th. Like most other recent events, this year’s LPU was held virtually, and while we would all rather have met in person, UAC and SiteOne put together a great program. LPU brings seminars and training to industry professionals, providing the tools needed to raise industry standards and provide the best service to customers.



The agronomics track was particularly helpful to sod producers and others in the turfgrass industry. Featured topics included common turfgrass diseases and management; problem weed control in turfgrass; biology and management of major turfgrass pests; and turfgrass agronomics and sod survey.

For more information on the Urban Ag Council, visit <https://urbanagcouncil.com/>.

Georgia Soybean Commission Announces 2021 Funding



The Georgia Soybean Commission met January 8th to approve funding requestes for calendar year 2021. A summary of the projects funded is below. The Georgia Soybean Commission is funded through a national check-off in conjunction with the United Soybean Board. Their mission is to maximize profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. Members of the Commission here in Georgia include: Greg Mims, Chair, Mark Ariail, Jonathan Hitchcock, Brian Ogletree, Jesse Patrick and Tony Smith.

Request received from:	Nature of Project:	Amount
Pam Knox, UGA	Georgia Weather Network support	5000
Terry Hollifield, GA/FL Soybean	Support of the Ga / Fla Soybean Association	12000
Billy Skaggs, GCIA	Commission Administrative Support	20000
Bob Kemerait, UGA	Soybean rust & fungal disease sentinel plot monitoring	30000
Zenglu Li, UGA	Development of high yielding cultivars w/ enhanced herbicide tolerance	34468
Corey Bryant, UGA	Extension programming & applied agronomic research in soybean	10000
SSRP	Southern Soybean Research Program	5000
Georgia Farm Bureau	GFB Farm Monitor support	8000
WISHH/ASA	Building New Export Markets	1000
TOTAL		125468

Georgia corn, peanut & soybean production made gains in 2020



Georgia corn, peanut and soybean producers significantly increased production in 2020, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Annual Crop Production report released Jan. 12.

Georgia corn for grain production totaled 70.2 million bushels, an increase of 25% from 2019, mainly due to a record high 180 bushels per acre year in 2020.

Conversely, peanut production, at 3.28 billion pounds, was up 19 percent from 2019 due to an increase in planted acreage.

Soybean production, at 3.90 million bushels, was up 56 percent from the previous year due to a 12 bushel increase in yield compared with 2019.

Cotton production, at 2.18 million bales, was down 20% from 2019, due primarily to a decrease in planted acreage.



Georgia Crop

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