



GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

Athens Seed Facility
2420 S. Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30605
706-552-4525

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www.gsdc.com
Editor: Erin Adkins

Plains Peanut Facility
1547 US Hwy 280 W
Plains, GA 31780
229-824-7881

Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

Please tell me it isn't so. It cannot already be the middle of May. The past four months have clearly flown by for us at GSD. We started out the year at the Southeastern Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah GA and ended the month of April attending the Southeastern Turfgrass Conference in Tifton GA. In between, we have met with blueberry, pecan, grape, peanut, soybean, small grains, and turfgrass licensees and growers.



We have hosted a UGA Plant Propagation class, attended national, regional, and local association meetings, and had a number of international visitors at GSD. I even had the opportunity to present the Georgia Integrated Cultivar Release System to my former soybean breeding colleagues at their National Soybean Breeder Workshop in St. Louis in mid-February. We are fortunate in Georgia to have developed and implemented an effective pathway to the marketplace for UGA-developed plant varieties. Other states are trying to learn from the success of the Georgia system.

So what is next? We are currently shipping Foundation peanut and soybean seed and have already made a number of international shipments of Foundation turfgrasses. We are preparing to harvest this year's Foundation wheat crop at both Plains and Athens. Terry Hollifield and I have just completed meeting with Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics faculty at the Tifton, Griffin, and Athens locations. Along with new developments in seed certification and intellectual property protection for plants, we were able to present and discuss the new GSD-funded Plant Breeding Enhancement program with them. The program's primary focus is funding specialized research equipment or single-year projects for UGA and Georgia-based USDA-ARS plant breeders. Requests that benefit multiple breeding programs will be given priority. This program should help to fill a gap in funding by providing support to upgrade, replace, or obtain additional research equipment to improve the efficiency of our plant breeders.

We are also preparing for our GSD Spring Board Meeting which will be held May 26th and 27th at Lake Blackshear Golf Resort near Cordele GA. At this meeting the Board develops its annual budget and plans its programs for the next year. In fact, one purpose of attending these many meetings during the past 4 months is to be able to obtain the critical information required to develop an informed budget to present to the Board. If you would like to attend the GSD Spring Board Meeting, please contact Ms. Erin Adkins (erin.adkins@gsdc.com) for details. I believe you would enjoy learning more about the many programs and the future plans of GSD.

Education

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

GSD hosted Dr. Donglin Zhang's HORT3620 Plant Propagation class in mid-March. There were 30 students in the class. Dr. Boerma and I each gave a presentation to the class and then they went on a tour of the facility given by Doug McWhorter, Doug Batchelder, and Corey Booth. They were able to see the seed conditioning equipment processing soybean seed.



Students identifying different seed

Marketing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager



The trade show and conference schedule has slowed a bit in the last month. We had the GICRS booth at the Soybean & Small Grain Expo in Perry and also at the 69th Annual Southeast Turfgrass Conference in Tifton. The largest show we attended in the past few months was the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio TX (pictured left). At this show we were joined by representatives of UGARF, GCIA, and UGA's Turfgrass Breeding Team. We also attended GCIA's annual meeting in Athens. I attended the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Southern

Regional Meeting in Stillwater OK in April. During this meeting, I had the opportunity to visit with representatives from the other southern foundation seed organizations. I also learned Oklahoma is looking to build a new foundation seed cleaning plant. We invited them to Athens to tour our facilities.

I have started meeting with our current licensees and other personnel in other foundation seed organizations. In April I went to visit Virginia's foundation seed farm in Mount Holly, VA. At the farm I met with Bruce Beahm and Phillip Browning and we discussed different seed conditioning equipment and methods of processing foundation seed. From there I visited with two of our wheat licensees in North Carolina. I checked in with them to make sure they were satisfied with the products they were receiving from us and if they had any suggestions for improvement. I plan on continuing this effort so we can improve upon our network and knowledge of all the people involved in the system.

Erin Adkins is continuing to do a great job keeping the GICRS and GSD websites updated with new technical information and news articles. She is also continuing to populate the GSD Facebook page with current information. If you haven't followed GSD on Facebook I would encourage you to do so by visiting www.facebook.com/georgiaseeddevelopment. Erin and I have just completed a new brochure for Dr. Branch's Georgia-14N peanut and have started designing a brochure that will focus on the seven newest pecan varieties.

Processing/Production

Doug McWhorter, Athens, and Ralph Johnson, Plains

2015 SOYBEAN PROCESSING

We processed almost 3000 bushels of the following varieties of soybeans this winter: G04-1618RR (AGS 828RR), G03-1187RR (AGS 787RR), and G12PR-63R2. Germinations were very good for all varieties. We had sufficient amounts of Prichard RR, AGS Woodruff, G06-3182RR (AGS 738RR) and Cook in cold storage to cover these varieties for 2015 plantings. We will be growing around 45 acres of soybeans for Foundation production this summer.

2015 SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION:

We have a total of 21 small grain Foundation increases this year. These include one rye, two oat, and eighteen wheat varieties. The wheat fields in central Georgia tillered well, but have differing levels of Fusarium head blight (scab) infection. All of our fields were treated with a fungicide and an insecticide at flowering. The wheat fields in North Georgia tillered well also and are not currently showing symptoms of scab. In Plains, our earliest fields are about two weeks from harvest.

2015 COTTON and PECAN PRODUCTION

GA2004-230 Cotton: We have 65 pounds of treated cottonseed from the 2014 crop. Dr. Chee and his staff acid delinted half of this year's crop for us. The remaining seed (which has not been delinted) is being held in cold storage for next season.

Pecan Graftwood: In mid-February early March, we harvested pecan graftwood from the UGA Horticulture Farm for distribution to licensees. Requests for graft wood was less in 2015 than in previous years.



Heard cotton being harvested



Graftwood harvesting with GSD's Corey Booth

2015 PEANUT PRODUCTION

After a very wet April fields are starting to dry out and peanut planting is underway. We ended up with a total peanut seed inventory of 4,230,000 lbs. and have sold everything but 100,000 lbs. of GA 11J. Our 2015 crop production plan is: GA 06G - 3,000,000 lbs. (increased by 200,000), GA 13 M -750,000 lbs. (30 % increase from last year), GA 12Y - 200,000 lbs., GA 14N - 150,000 lbs., 15 acres of GA 04S and 2 acres of a new experimental from Dr. Branch's program. Due to GSD being at capacity for farmer's stock storage this season Alabama Crop Improvement Association has agreed to grow the Foundation Tifguard for 2015.



All turf has been treated with summer pre-emergence chemicals. The fields in Athens have broken dormancy, but cold night-time temperatures are slowing growth of the grasses. We have sprayed for broadleaf and insect control.

Paspalum:

Sea Star: One pending order at this time.

Sea Isle 1: No orders at this time.

Sea Isle 2000: No orders at this time.

Sea Isle Supreme: No orders at this time.

Bermuda:

DT – 1: The Foundation field established with Super Sod in Marshallville, GA of the new drought tolerant bermuda from Dr. Schwartz' program is being used to increase fields for the licensees.

TifGrand: Companies in Costa Rica and Japan have been provided sprigs for increase fields.

TifDwarf: A company in Japan has requested a small volume of sprigs. We plan to dig and ship the sprigs next week.

TifWay: We should be able to supply any requested orders for TifWay beginning in early June. A company in Japan wishes to evaluate TifWay in their environment. We plan to dig and ship the sprigs next week.

TifEagle: The Japanese company mentioned above also wishes to evaluate TifEagle. We plan to dig and ship the sprigs next week.

TifSport: The same Japanese company will receive a shipment of TifSport next week for planting in their increase field.

Centipede:

TifBlair: No orders at this time.



Licensing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Licensing activity has been progressing at a very fast pace for the past two months. For example, we had 18 peanut requests for Georgia-13M licenses and 5 requests for Georgia-14N licenses. We also had several requests for the older peanut varieties Georgia-09B and Georgia-06G this spring. Along with these commodity peanuts we have licensed a perennial peanut named Cowboy to a Texas and a Florida company. Turfgrass licensing has also been active. GSD and UGARF have signed agreements with a company in Japan for two of the older turfgrass varieties and the newest release out of UGA, DT-1, has just been licensed to a Georgia company. The distribution of Foundation plant material has also begun of these new licenses. We continue to have a good number of blueberry license requests. Seven new companies have licensed multiple varieties in the past 2 months. UGARF and GSD have just finished signing seven amendments for one company to extend the terms of the agreements they currently have for their UGA-developed varieties. For soybean and small grain, GSD and UGARF have just completed three wheat licenses and one soybean license.

Facilities Update

Blake Fleeman and Ralph Johnson

The new seed treater has been installed in the Athens Facility. The company representative came and did the initial set-up and we ran a batch of test wheat through the machine while he was on site. This gave us a chance to get some training with the machine before we start conditioning wheat. According to Ralph all of the equipment for the new peanut receiving station is on site. The construction crew is working on assembling all the pieces. The way things are progressing it appears we are on schedule to have it up and running in time for the first peanut harvest.



New Seed Treater, Athens



Aerial of New Peanut Receiving Station Site, Plains



Lowering New Air-Gap Cleaner, Plains

Important Dates

- *Georgia Seed Development Semi-Annual Board Meeting, Cordele, GA; May 27, 2015
- *Georgia/Alabama Seed Association Meeting, Sandestin, FL; July 12-13, 2015
- *Southern Peanut Growers Conference, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga., July 23-25, 2015

Georgia Seed Development
is a proud member of
Georgia Grown, a program
of the Georgia Department
of Agriculture.
<http://georgiagrown.com>

