



GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

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August 2016 Update
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Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director



We were very fortunate this summer to have two highly capable individuals, Brendan Fatzinger and Turner Spratling, serve as GSD/GCIA interns. Both of these UGA students were always on time, willing to undertake any task, and highly inquisitive. Last week I had the opportunity to join them for a visit to James Greenhouses near Colbert, Georgia. Mr. Ken James and his wife, Leah, are co-owners of this business which specializes in providing growers with high quality perennial plugs and liners. Ken did a very thorough job of providing us with an overview of their business, a tour of facilities, and a discussion of the various challenges and opportunities he sees for their business going forward.

After the tour was completed, we were discussing the various aspects of professionalism and the need for continued education and training for success in today's business world. One topic that came up was dealing with the pressures and time constraints associated with running a business while finding time to give back to the profession. One thing I should have mentioned previously is that Ken is the Vice-chairman of the GSD Board of Directors. I indicated to Brendan and Turner that it was my experience that many successful individuals (both business and academic) somehow find time to volunteer for leadership roles in their professional associations or not-for-profit businesses that support their profession.

This topic got me thinking about the various reasons why these successful individuals are willing to give back to their profession by assuming these leadership roles. Why would these individuals endure the time away from their business, time away from family, and assume the financial risks of serving on these boards?

After deliberating on this question for a period of time, I have come up with several hypotheses. Some individuals simply see an important job that needs to be done and believe that if it is going to get accomplished they need to participate. A significant group of individuals believe they have been blessed with success and they have a moral obligation to give back to their profession or community. Other successful individuals obtain a form of emotional and physical energy by being associated with like-minded people. There is a type of synergy that occurs when these individuals get together. They believe this energy propels them to an even higher level of achievement in all that they do.

Regardless of the reason(s) a particular person is willing to serve in a leadership role, we should all be very thankful for their service to our profession, communities, and country. I do believe that for the continued success of the agricultural industry we need to constantly encourage accomplished individuals to sustain this time-honored tradition of the culture of volunteerism. I wish to thank these talented leaders for their enormous contributions to Georgia Seed Development and the entire agricultural industry.

Licensing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

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Licensing activity has remained steady for the past two months. We have had several amendments that have been completed for various crops. We are continuing to see additional requests for peanut and blueberry license agreements. The three new soybean lines from Dr. Zenglu Li's program have continued to be a topic of discussion with licensees. Currently, a couple of potential licensees have inquired about traveling to Georgia and looking at these lines in the production field. We will be working with these companies to schedule a time for the site visits. Please let me know if your company would be interested in visiting the Foundation field of either of the Maturity Group VII Liberty Link varieties or the new Maturity Group VII Roundup 2 Yield variety.

New Position Created at GSD



Dr. Xiaohong Zhou has accepted a position with GSD to assist UGA breeders of horticultural plants in the development of tissue culture protocols for the micropropagation of their new varieties. She will be located in Dr. Donglin Zhang's laboratory in the Horticulture Department at Athens and will focus on reducing the time interval between varietal release and commercialization. She obtained her BS and PhD degrees in forest genetics and tree breeding from Nanjing Forestry University in China. Most recently she served as a visiting scholar at UGA in Dr. C.J. Tsai's laboratory in the Forestry School.

Marketing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

This year we were very fortunate to have two really good interns, Brendan Fatzinger and Turner Spratling, whom you read about in the last update. A significant part of their internship included traveling with GSD or GCIA personnel to visit various agricultural operations across the state. They were able to travel to some local growers with GCIA personnel to observe how they do field inspections on row crops and turfgrasses. In the Northeast Georgia area they visited a regional greenhouse operation along with meeting with a regional grass seed distributor. The tour also included stops in Atlanta at the Georgia Department of Agriculture along with a stop in Tifton at the Department of Agriculture's Seed Laboratory. They also visited with a large sod production company in middle Georgia along with a regional seed processing facility in Southwest Georgia. In addition, they were able to tour our Foundation Peanut Processing Center near Plains, Georgia. The interns along with Corey Booth of GSD participated in the UGA Plant Breeding Practicum course which highlighted the various plant breeding programs at Griffin, Tifton and Athens and how the CAES, UGARF, GCIA, and GSD cooperate to move new varieties into the market place.

Processing/Production

Doug Batchelder, Athens, and Ralph Johnson, Plains; Production Managers

2016 SMALL GRAINS PROCESSING

Plains: We had excellent weather for small grain harvest in Plains. The fusarium head blight damage to the seed turned out to be considerably less than we were expecting based on the symptoms we observed in the field. For the first time in several years we are getting decent germinations without a seed treatment. Processing has started and should be completed by mid-August. The following wheat varieties are being processed in Plains: AGS 3000, LA 754, 26R94, SH5550, Baldwin, and AGS 2027. We are also processing two oat varieties; Horizon 270 and Horizon 306.

Athens: Athens also experienced excellent weather for small grain harvest. There was virtually no disease pressure and all of the preliminary germinations were well above average. We are currently halfway through conditioning and treating Savoy wheat with the following wheat varieties remaining: GA 11E44, GA 12E6, GA 13LE31, GA 13LE29, GA 13LE43, 2010E2914, and AR11LE24. Also grown and processed this year were GA Gore wheat and Wrens Abruzzi rye.

2016 SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

After a relatively late late planting season due to exceptionally dry weather in North Georgia, we are producing seven soybean varieties this year; AGS Woodruff, CZ 7070RY, AGS 738RR, AGS 828RR, G10PR-56444R2, G13LL-44, and G13LL-7.

2015 PEANUT PRODUCTION

Since the last report in May 2016, our Foundation Peanut crop has been planted and is up to a good stand. All gypsum has been applied and most of our fields have lapped the middles. Rainfall has been spotty and the high temperatures are causing some plant stress. Growers are irrigating regularly to meet the moisture need of the crop as we are now in the critical stage of pegging and pod fill. We have the following acreage in production: GA 06G -1,050 acres, GA 14N -150 acres, GA 13 M- 50 acres, GA 112720-15 acres, and Tif NV-HI O/L -15 acres. Alabama Crop Improvement is producing the Foundation seed of the GA 12Y, GA 09B, and Tifguard varieties in 2016.

TURF PRODUCTION

We have filled a number of domestic Foundation TifTuf and Tifway orders so far this summer with a few additional orders pending. Two orders of TifEagle were shipped last week and we are currently working on getting orders of TifTuf to Hawaii and California.

Our Foundation TifSport field has been moved from Cartersville to the Iron Horse Farm in Greene County and our Foundation TifWay field has also been reestablished at the Iron Horse Farm. Half of our Foundation TifEagle block in the sand field at GSD in Athens was used to create a new Foundation field at Pike Creek Turf in Adel while the sprigs in the other half of the block were used to create our Foundation field at the Iron Horse Farm. We are currently in the process of doubling the size of our Foundation field of Sea Star paspalum in the sand field at GSD.





GSD Employee Update

Georgia Seed Development is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Paul Ford. Paul has accepted the position of Foundation Seed/Plant Processing Technician and began work with GSD on July 18, 2016. We are very happy to have Paul on staff here in Athens. Paul and his wife Carley reside in Commerce, Georgia.

Georgia Seed Association's Seedsman of the Year Mr. Blake Fleeman

Blake has worked with GSD since 1997 and currently serves as our Licensing and Marketing Manager. He has continually shown the ability to work effectively with UGA and USDA plant breeders, UGARF, and GCIA in the production and licensing of new varieties. He has been a central figure in the development and implementation of the highly effective GICRS marketing effort that has expanded licensee interest in UGA-developed plant material. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the GCIA. He and his wife Cari reside in Athens and have two beautiful 8-year-old, twin daughters, Amy and Emily. Congratulations Blake! (Pictured Right: In-coming President of Georgia Seed Association Lane Morrell and Blake Fleeman)



Sights around Georgia Seed Development



Planting Foundation TifSport field at the Iron Horse Farm



Foundation GA-06G field in Plains, GA

Important Dates

- *Georgia Peanut Farm Tour, Tifton Area, GA, September 13-15, 2016
- *Georgia Seed Development Annual Board Meeting, Athens, GA, November 9, 2016

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

