



GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

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August 2025 Update
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Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

What do you think of when you hear the phrase, the good old days? What got me thinking about it was my wife's car recently had a recall where her front brake line could leak brake fluid resulting in potential brake failure. We both have busy schedules, and I was concerned about finding a time when we could survive a day without the car. I called the local dealership to arrange for the recall work. When the dealership answered, I explained to them how difficult it was going to be to schedule the work with our schedules. Their response was to leave the vehicle out on your driveway and hide the key fob somewhere on the vehicle and we can have our mobile service technician at your home by 10 o'clock in the morning.

My initial thought was how great this modern-day service is for busy folks. I was thinking how today's technology provides freedom and opportunities unknown to us 50 years ago. Today we can have groceries, complete meals, hardware items, all kinds of on-line items from Amazon delivered directly to our front doors, and even recent movies sent directly to our television sets or iPads. The advancement of products and services by innovative and visionary people continues to propel us forward.

Then I started to think back on the good old days during my childhood on the farm. In central Illinois there were already mobile deliveries of groceries and other necessities, doctors that make house calls, Sears catalogs for ordering everything, including an entire new house, and drive-in restaurants that brought your warm meal to your car and hung it on the window.

Have things really changed that much? I think we can agree that the rates at which services, products, and information are developed and delivered have accelerated by orders of magnitude. The most obvious example is information which was previously delivered via newspapers, magazines, and books housed in libraries compared to today's mobile phones and powerful computers that you carry in your pocket or on your waist. Were the good old days really that great? Like other things in our lives, it depends on your perspective. I do know that in the good old days I took more time to appreciate the new advancements.

I hope each of you have a productive and safe harvest season.



A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Licensing

The licensing activity has remained steady for the past few months. We have had several requests for amendments to current licenses. These amendments have all be finalized and signed off on by each group. Within the next few months, we will be having a licensing committee meeting for some newly released cultivars. Currently, I am working with the Texas Department of AG/Seed Certification on establishing a new Foundation Zoysia field in Texas.

Education

GSD hosted the UGA Plant Breeding Practicum class back on June 24th in the Athens office. Dr. Warrington provided a presentation on GSD and then Corey and Buddy took the group on a tour of the seed conditioning plant.

Marketing

Over the last couple of months, I have attended several meetings, the first one being the AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies) Annual meeting in Kansas City, hosted by the Kansas Crop Improvement Association (*pictured below left*). The meeting provided a chance for the Foundation Seed organizations in attendance to meet and discuss important topics currently affecting the group. The meeting had excellent attendance and the KCIA staff did an excellent job hosting.

The second meeting I attended was the GA/AL Seed Association's Annual Meeting (*pictured below right*). This meeting also had an exceptionally good attendance with some informative speakers. As the trade show season is still a few months away from getting started, I have been busy reserving booth space at the various shows we will be attending during the upcoming show season.



Processing/Production

**Doug Batchelder, Athens, and Justin Tanner, Plains
Production Managers**

2025 FOUNDATION PEANUT

This year our growers experienced ideal planting conditions as opposed to last year when we had, technically, 2 crops planted. Rainfall and overall growing conditions have been consistent. With the amount of rainfall we have experienced lately weed control is becoming an issue. Georgia Seed Development's foundation peanut production plan consists of 11 released varieties (8 Runners, 2 Virginias, 1 Spanish) and 5 experimental increases. Georgia Seed's production plan consists of over 2,200 peanut acres with an expectancy of over 5,000 tons of farmer stock inventory to be delivered.

Foundation Georgia-06G Peanuts 1,259 acres; Foundation Georgia-20VHO Peanuts 10 acres
Foundation Georgia-18RU Peanuts 100 acres; Foundation Georgia-14N Peanuts 10 acres
Foundation TifJumbo Peanuts 9 acres; Foundation TifNV HG Peanuts 589 acres
Foundation Georgia-11J Peanuts 18 acres; Foundation Georgia-21GR Peanuts 149 acres
Foundation Georgia-22MPR Peanuts 0 acres- Cold Room; Foundation Georgia-23RKN Peanuts 60
acres; Foundation Georgia 24 NHO Peanuts 32 acres; Breeder Increase Sp-RKN Peanuts 1.6 acres
Breeder Georgia 183129 Peanuts 6 acres; Breeder Georgia 182729 Peanuts 15 acres; Breeder
Georgia 192504 Peanuts .61 acres; Breeder Georgia 192506 Peanuts .97 acres; Breeder Tif TB
Peanuts 1.74 acres; **Total Acres: 2,261.92 acres**

2025 FOUNDATION TURFGRASS

We have filled several domestic Foundation TifTuf, Tifway, and TifSport turfgrass orders so far this summer. Also, we still have outstanding domestic orders for TifTuf, Tifway, and TifEagle that will be fulfilled as the customer is ready and the weather allows. We also washed TifTuf for an international customer this summer. We are also adding a foundation field of a new herbicide resistant paspalum from Dr. Paul Raymer's program. A new TifSport Bermudagrass foundation field has been established off-site to make room at the Iron Horse Farm for renovation and expansion. A three-acre expansion of Foundation TifEagle at Pike Creek is almost completed and we should have grass available next summer. We also plan to replant and expand TifEagle and Tifway at the Iron Horse Farm this fall to better handle our future needs. The remaining established foundation fields look good and have been harvested or are ready for harvest.

2025 FOUNDATION SMALL GRAINS

Plains: 850 bushels of SH5550 wheat were harvested, conditioned, and bagged by our Plains staff. That wheat is tagged and ready for pickup by the licensee. Seed germination is excellent. They also were able to harvest TifQuik bahiagrass the second week of July and that seed has been dried and will be cleaned and bagged this winter.

Processing/Production Continued:

Athens: A little over 18000 bushels of wheat were harvested from 12 varieties in north Georgia and Plains and brought into our Athens facility. Five of those varieties are for current licensees, two are public varieties, three are new experimental varieties for the wheat breeding program at UGA, and the remaining three are new experimental varieties for the wheat breeding program at LSU. After drying them down in the bins, we were able to start processing and bagging wheat for sale mid-July. Preliminary germinations for all of the varieties have been good with only minimal treatment as the licensee demands. Also grown was Wrens Abruzzi Rye as well as Horizon 306 Oat for Mixon Seed. The Athens staff did a fantastic job getting everything harvested and transported from Plains and North Georgia back to Athens for storage in bins. It was a lot of varieties and a lot of truckloads and it seemed like the weather was fighting us every step of the way.

2025 FOUNDATION SOYBEAN

Small foundation increases of six soybean varieties have been planted on acres across the state. They are AGS Woodruff, AGS 738RR as well as two XtendFlex®, one Enlist E3® and one conventional line. With more than adequate rainfall that we have experienced lately, the entire soybean crop is expected to have excellent yield this year.

SIGHTS AROUND GEORGIA SEED



Foundation AGS Woodruff in Shellman, GA



Tifway 419 at UGA Iron Horse Farm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soybean Breeders Tour
September 3-5, 2025 Tifton and Plains, GA

Georgia Sod Producers Field Day
November 5-6, 2025 Fort Valley, GA

GSDC Annual Board Meeting
November 12, 2025 Athens, GA

