



**GEORGIA SEED**  
DEVELOPMENT

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## Seed for Thought

**Roger Boerma, Executive Director**

The 2018 small grains harvest season was a significant challenge for Southeast seedsmen to produce a quality seed product. During the period from 15 May to 15 June it rained 24 days in the Plains, Georgia area and 19 days in the Athens, Georgia area. Given these unusually rainy conditions, it was astonishing that GSD could harvest 20 Foundation wheat lines in a little over a 2-week period with germinations of 90% or greater. GSD had a well thought out plan, a dedicated staff, efficient equipment, and effective processes in place that were successfully implemented between the rain showers.

Michael Wilkinson, founder and Managing Director of Leadership Strategies, Inc., suggests five main reasons for the establishment of a sound plan. His reasons include: i) to set direction and priorities, ii) to get everyone on the same page, iii) to simplify decision making, iv) to drive alignment, and v) to communicate the message. It is revealing to me that all five of these reasons have a great deal to do with communications among the various members within an organization.

At GSD the Board of Commissioners sets direction and priorities. The GSD Board members understand the mission of GSD and its need to produce a high quality product. We often think of GSD as a boutique business i.e., a business that provides limited quantities of specialized products at a premium price. In order to achieve a superior product requires thinking beyond the normal production practices and investment strategies for commodity crops. The GSD Board's insight has resulted in the upgrading of our seed transport capabilities by the purchase of a new 1,000-bushel grain trailer, a 550-bushel dump truck, and a 300-bushel grain trailer along with the upgrading of the seed conditioning plant at Plains. These investments have provided GSD with the necessary equipment that allowed GSD to bring in a record of three Foundation wheat varieties into the plant in a single day.

Earlier I referred the importance of a dedicated staff and communications. I mentioned this because adequate equipment and facilities alone will not achieve organizational success. It requires for all members of the organization to understand the plan and their individual roles in implementing the plan. This requires clear communications throughout the organization. Without a clear understanding by all members of the team of what is required of each of them on any given day, the organization will not achieve its potential. This becomes increasing obvious in a weather-challenged year like 2018.

My take home message – Successful organizations develop motivated employees that openly communicate while implementing efficient processes which produce superior products. This approach drives both organizational and personal success.



## Processing/Production

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

### 2018 SMALL GRAINS PROCESSING

**Plains:** Conditions this year for harvesting wheat were extremely challenging. All 12 varieties were harvested with high moisture in between periods of rainfall and subsequently dried on peanut wagons. In spite of the challenging conditions, the overall quality and germination of all of the varieties grown in Plains were excellent. Fusarium head blight was virtually non-existent in our Foundation wheat fields. Processing has been completed as of the second week of August. A little more than 6,100 50-lb. units have been conditioned and bagged at Plains of the following wheat varieties: Baldwin, SH 5550, GA061349-13LE31, GA051102-13LE43, and GA 08535-15LE29. The two oat varieties, Horizon 270 and Horizon 306, were not grown this year due to an adequate supply in cold storage. We have harvested about 1,800 lbs. of Foundation Tifquik bahiagrass from 4.5 acres at our Plains facility.

**Athens:** Athens experienced a single week of excellent weather for small grain harvest. We were able to harvest all 8 of the varieties grown in Middle and North Georgia over a period of 4 consecutive days. We experienced excellent yields as well as good seed quality with seed germinations in the mid to upper 90's. Fusarium head blight was not a problem in our Foundation wheat fields this year. In Athens we have already conditioned and treated almost 3,000 50-lb. units of the following wheat varieties: LA09225C-33-3, LA754, GA081446-15E47, AGS 3040, AGS 3000, AGS 2024, and L11544. Remaining varieties include AGS 3030, AGS 2038, GA07353-14E19, and possibly 2010E2914. We expect to be finished by mid to late September. There is an adequate supply of Wrens Abruzzi Rye in cold storage.

### 2018 SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

Foundation increases of the G13LL-44 (SH 7218) and AGS Woodruff soybean varieties have been planted in Plains, GA and Allendale, SC, respectively, and are currently flowering.

### 2018 PEANUT PRODUCTION

The Foundation peanut fields are looking good and at this point disease incidence is low. We were 80% planted on 20 May and then it started raining. It was 5 June before we got back in the field. The remaining 20% of our Foundation peanut fields were planted on 5 and 6 June. The June-planted peanuts emerged quickly and have grown rapidly, but will still need a late fall to get these peanuts to optimum maturity. We have received a lot of rain and irrigation requirements have been low. The early excess rain made weed control more challenging than normal. Most of our fields have excellent control, but we do have a few fields with more pigweed escapes than normal. Harvest is still about 5 to 6 weeks away and we are now doing preventative maintenance on equipment and sanitizing warehouses and drying trailers.

We have the following varieties in production : 1,100 acres GA 06G, 100 acres GA 16HO, 100 acres of TIF NV, 70 acres GA 122540, 50 acres of GA 14N, 25 acres of GA 11J, and 6 acres of GA 122706. Alabama Crop Improvement Association in Headland, AL is maintaining the Foundation seed of the following Georgia-developed peanut varieties: Tifguard, GA 09B, GA 12Y, GA Greener, and GA 07W.



## Processing/Production cont.

### 2018 TURFGRASS PRODUCTION

We have filled 13 domestic Foundation TifTuf orders this year with two of them coming from our Foundation field in California. Six Foundation Tifway orders have also been filled this season. We have shipped three TifEagle orders in 2018. GSD has additional domestic orders of Foundation TifTuf, Tifway, and TifEagle as well as an international order for TifEagle that need to be addressed.

All of our established Foundation fields are looking good and are being harvested or are ready for harvest. As of this week, all of our expansion plans for Foundation turfgrass have been completed at the Iron Horse Farm as well as Pike Creek Turf and should be ready for harvest in 2019.



*Tifway sprig harvest at the Iron Horse Farm*



*Planting Foundation TifEagle at Pike Creek*

## Licensing

SIGN  
HERE

**Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager**

The licensing activity has remained steady for the past three months. We have had several requests for amendments to current licenses. The amendments have all been finalized and signed by each group. During this time we also executed 7 new license agreements for various crops. Within the next few months we will be having licensing committee meetings for some newly release cultivars.

## Marketing

**Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager**



Over the last two months, Roger and I attended two meetings with the first one being the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies meeting in Atlanta. This year the Georgia Crop Improvement Association was the host agency for the meeting. The meeting was very well attended and Terry and the GCIA staff did an excellent job hosting the annual meeting. The meeting provided a chance for the Foundation Seed organizations in attendance to meet and have discussions on topics affecting this group. The second meeting we attended was the GA/AL Seedsmen meeting. This meeting also had a very good attendance with some very informative speakers. Doug and I attended the 2018 UGA Turfgrass Research Field Day in Griffin, GA. As in the past years the field day had several hundred people in attendance.



## Georgia Seed Snapshots



*Dr. Nino Brown and Dr. Roger Boerma in Triple H's GA-06G peanut field*



*2018 Turfgrass Field Day Griffin, GA*



*Dr. Bill Branch and Ralph Johnson in Justin Johnson's Foundation GA-06G Peanut field*



*Dr. Jerry Johnson and Mr. Ralph Johnson during wheat harvest*

## Outstanding Seed Service

Mr. Ragan Pearce recently retired from Georgia Seed Development after serving the organization for 38 years. We wish him the best as he begins his retirement. He was honored at a May 31 luncheon in Plains, GA. Ralph Johnson presented Ragan with a Distinguished Service Recognition Plaque for his outstanding service to the peanut industry.



### Upcoming Events

\*Georgia Peanut Tour  
Savannah, GA September 18-20, 2018

\*Sunbelt Ag Expo  
Moultrie, GA October 16-18, 2018

\*GSDC Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Athens, GA November 14, 2018

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