



**GEORGIA SEED**  
DEVELOPMENT

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

August 2026 Update  
[www.gsdc.com](http://www.gsdc.com)

Plains Peanut Facility  
1547 US Hwy 280 W  
Plains, GA 31780  
229-995-6781

## **Seed for Thought**

**Caleb Warrington, Senior Director**

Last week, I attended the field day at the Southwest Georgia Research and Education Center in Plains, GA. There was a great turnout of UGA researchers, extension agents, growers, and industry representatives. The UGA crew did a great job, and the seafood buffet was spot on, as always!

Corn harvest is in full swing in Georgia, and I'm sure many growers could not break away from the field to attend the field day. It got me thinking about how farmers are pulled in so many directions daily and are having to do more with less just to make ends meet.

There is a tremendous amount of pressure just deciding how to prioritize farm tasks and maintain a balanced daily life. For growers across the Southeast, that pressure has become especially difficult as production costs remain high while prices have struggled to provide the kind of margins they need. They invest thousands of dollars and months of work into a crop before they ever know what it will be worth.

There is an added level of stress on top of everyday farming: preserving the family legacy. Over the weekend, I watched an episode of the Georgia Farm Monitor. They did a story about a family who's been farming the same piece of ground for four generations. It was a good reminder that the pressure on farmers is more than just this year's crop. As land development has moved closer to the farm, there is concern as to whether the next generation will have the same opportunities to keep farming. I'm sure many are in a similar situation, as they want to pass the opportunity on to their children. I could see how it would be tempting to sell off high-value farmland in the current economic climate. Those decisions will change the future of farm families; something that generations had worked to build. And it's just another type of pressure facing farmers today.

Farming sure isn't easy; behind every acre is a person carrying the responsibility of making that acre work. Not just for themselves, but for their families. GSD truly appreciates our growers and licensees who are making it happen during these tough times.



## **Licensing**

### **Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager**

The licensing activity has remained steady for the past few months. UGARF and GSD have had some requests for new peanut licenses, and we have completed some new amendments for some of our current licensee's active licenses.

## **Out of State Turfgrass**

### **Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager**

GSD is currently managing four out of state Foundation production fields for various turfgrass varieties. We currently have 2 production fields in Florida, 1 in Texas, and 1 in California. I was just at the Florida and California locations for Foundation sprig harvesting . At the time of harvest the fields looked like they were in great shape. Pictured below is a Foundation TifTuf field in Escondido, California.



## **Marketing/Meetings**

### **Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager**

The past couple of months, I have attended several meetings with the first one being the AOSCA Annual meeting in Denver, Colorado. This year the North Dakota State Seed Department and the South Dakota Crop Improvement Associations joined together to be the host agencies for the meeting. The meeting was very well attended, and the Dakota coalition did an excellent job hosting the annual meeting. The meeting provided a chance for the Foundation Seed Organization in attendance to meet and have discussions on topics affecting this group. In July Doug, Caleb, Roger and I attended the GA/AL Seedsman meeting. The Alabama Seed Association was the host of the meeting this year in Destin, Florida. The meeting was well attended, and Alabama invited some highly 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**

**FOUNDATION PEANUT**

This year's planting dates spans from April 26th through June 17th. The Foundation fields look well, and our growers seem to have a handle on weed control. The USDA's peanut crop estimate for Georgia is 660,000 acres for 2026 which is down from 915,000 acres in 2025. Hopefully the crop estimate will spur a commercially available contract that is attractive to growers.

Georgia Seed Development's Foundation production plan consists of 8 released varieties and 3 experimental lines. This is the first year we will handle varieties from Dr. Nino Brown's breeding program. Our production plan is a little over 2,000 acres with expectancy of over 5,000 tons of farmer stock inventory to be delivered. Our production plan is as follows: Georgia 06G 1,100 acres, Georgia 18RU 15 acres, Georgia 22MPR 34 acres, Georgia 23RKN 63 acres, Georgia 24NHO 46 acres, Georgia 25NV 15 acres, Tif NV HG 732 acres, Tif TB 15 acres, Georgia 192504 5 acres, Georgia 225502 0.75 acres, and Georgia 225504 1.5 acres for a total of 2,027.25 Foundation acres.

**FOUNDATION TURFGRASS**

We have filled several domestic Foundation TifTuf and Tifway turfgrass orders so far this summer. Also, we still have outstanding domestic orders for TifTuf, Tifway, and TifEagle that will be filled as the customer is ready and the weather allows. Renovation at the Iron Horse Farm for a new TifEagle field is well underway with the old fields being sprayed out and soybeans planted on the field. We will continue to spray herbicide over the soybeans as they grow and monitor the fields for any unwanted grass.

**FOUNDATION SMALL GRAINS**

A total 850 bushels of SH5550 wheat were harvested, conditioned, and bagged by our Plains staff. Seed germination is excellent. We 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. The remaining seven wheat varieties and one Foundation oat were processed and bagged in Athens and are ready to be tagged. Foundation Rye has also been bagged and is ready to be tagged. Total acreage was 86.

**FOUNDATION SOYBEAN**

We have one Foundation increase of a new conventional soybean planted in south Georgia (G19-13438) on five acres. There is enough AGS Woodruff and AGS 738RR in cold storage for the licensee.

**Education****Corey Booth, Foundation Seed Supervisor**

On July 22-23, 2026, three staff members from GSD Athens and two staff members from GSD Plains attended the Gravity Separation Workshop at Iowa State University. The program combined comprehensive classroom instruction with intensive, hands-on training in properly configuring and operating gravity tables. This practical experience directly enhances skills in seed separation—a critical component of the seed conditioning process required to produce high-quality seed.

**Sights Around The Seed**

Foundation Tifway turfgrass field at the Iron Horse Farm



Gravity Separation Workshop at Iowa State University



Beginning stages of construction for GSD cold room storage facility in Plains, GA



Foundation soybean G13-13438 field in Cuthbert, GA

**UPCOMING EVENT**

Cotton and Peanut Research Field Day  
September 2, 2026 Tifton, GA

