



GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

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

March 2016 Update
www.gsdc.com
Editor: Erin Montgomery

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

Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

As you may recall on January 9, 2016 the Georgia/Florida Soybean Association and the Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission dedicated a Georgia Historical Marker commemorating the site on Skidaway Island where in 1765 the first soybean crop was grown in North America. Soybean seeds were brought to North America from China via London by a seaman, Mr. Samuel Bowen. He brought these seeds with him to the Colony of Georgia in 1764. Because his newly purchased land was not ready for cultivation, he requested that his friend, Mr. Henry Yonge, plant the first North American soybean crop for him. Mr. Yonge planted these seeds at his Orangedale Plantation on Skidaway Island in the spring of 1765. From this small Skidaway Island planting the current U.S. soybean crop has grown to over 80 million acres.

The dedication ceremony was attended by 76 “soybean centric” folks from Georgia, Kentucky, and North Carolina. Among these attendees included three granddaughters of Henry Yonge. To be technically correct they were great, great, great, great, great, great, great granddaughters or “great⁸ granddaughters” of Henry Yonge.

One of the distinguished speakers at the dedication ceremony was Mr. James Lee Adams from Camilla, Georgia. Among James Lee’s numerous achievements throughout his career includes his election as President and Chairman of the Board of the American Soybean Association. James Lee’s presentation focused on the importance and implications of our daily actions and decisions. He used the example of how Henry Yonge and Samuel Bowen could not have possibly envisioned the ultimate impact their initial soybean crop would have on present-day U.S. agriculture. He challenged each of us at the dedication ceremony to keep this illustration in mind as we go about our daily activities.



As you can see from the photo above, Cindy and I were blessed to have our two daughters, Erica and LeeAnn, our two son-in-laws, Austin and Matt, and our granddaughter, Anna, join us at the dedication ceremony. This photo serves as a reminder to me of the importance of family and friends being able to share the important times and events in our lives. I hope that 2016 is a successful year for you, your family, and your business.

Licensing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger

SIGN
HERE

The licensing activity has begun to accelerate with people starting to think about spring planting and which specific varieties they want to market in the coming years. We have had several requests for license agreements for Georgia-14N and Georgia 09B peanut varieties. We continue to receive requests for blueberry and pecan varieties.

Marketing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger

We have been very busy this winter attending trade shows and commodity meetings. Roger and I started off the season by attending the Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference in Savannah. The conference set its fourth consecutive attendance record. This year was the first year we had an exhibit at the Southern Seed Association Conference. Attendance at this show was also very good and provided a chance for me to meet with several of our out-of-state licensees. From there Roger, Ralph, and I attended the Peanut Farm Show in Tifton. We received some questions about the availability of Foundation peanut seed for the coming spring and we also received grower feedback on current varieties being produced. Next, Billy Skaggs and I attended the Winter Green Show at the Gwinnett Center and had the GICRS display at this show. The Winter Green Show is a horticultural and landscaping trade event. This was the first time GICRS has had a booth at this show. The Small Grain and Soybean Expo was held Perry GA this year and we had the GICRS display set up at this meeting. The meeting was very well attended and there were a number of highly informative presentations. Terry Hollifield and I then traveled to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego where we both maned displays at the trade show. We were also able to meet with UGA Turfgrass licensees from around the world.



Georgia's Intergrated Cultivar Release System at the Southern Seed Association in February



Georgia Seed Development at the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference in January

Processing/Production

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

2016 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

The Athens location has Foundation wheat plantings totaling a little more than 225 acres this year. We also have 45 acres of Wrens Abruzzi Rye. We appear to be on track to have a warm, wet spring and all of our growers are committed to staying ahead of Fusarium Head Blight (scab) with a properly timed application of fungicide at flowering. The Plains location has the following Foundation small grain plantings for 2016. Two oats (11 acres) and six wheat varieties (118 acres). After being water logged for three months, fields have dried out enough that we were able to get nitrogen out. The fields are greening up and looking better.



Wheat Variety 13LE31



Wheat Variety GA Gore

2016 SOYBEAN PROCESSING

We are currently processing G12PR-63R2. Due to the unusually wet fall in 2015, clean out is expected to be very high and germination to be abnormally low. We were able to assist Dr. Li, UGA Soybean Breeder, with harvest of three potentially new soybean releases that have been sent to Puerto Rico for seed increases. GSD currently has sufficient amounts of AGS Woodruff, Cook, and 1618RR (AGS 828RR) in cold storage to meet 2016 production needs.

2016 PECAN PRODUCTION



We harvested Foundation pecan wood in mid-January in Albany, Georgia (*Pictured left: Corey Booth*) and mid-February in Athens at the UGA Horticulture Farm (*Pictured right: Doug McWhorter*). Both harvests have been successful and graft wood and bud wood have been distributed to licensees.



2015 PEANUT PROCESSING

In my last update on November 1, 2015 I stated that we were approximately 90% completed with harvest with only the 12Y yet to be dug. At the time I never imagined that we would be drying our last loads of peanuts on Thanksgiving Day. Once we finally got to start the shelling process things have gone smoothly. Shelling was completed on February 25. Our shell-outs are a little lower than normal due to the weather and conditions at harvest. I have been pleasantly surprised at our germination results. Most lots are running in the upper 80s to mid-90s with a few GA 06G lots yet to be tested. We will start treating seed on February 29th. We shelled the following varieties with the untreated poundage of each included: GA 06G -2,950,000, GA 13M -700,000, GA 14N- 215,000, GA 12Y -140,000, GA 11J -110,000, GA 04S - 23,000 and GA 112720 -2,300.

TURF PRODUCTION

The TifEagle and SeaStar varieties that were moved from the UGA Plant Science farm in the late summer of 2015 are continuing to do well this winter. The blankets have done a good job of providing protection during cold weather and should allow them to green up earlier in the spring. Our Foundation blocks of TifDwarf, Tif Grand, and Sea Isle Supreme are all currently dormant and weed free.



TifEagle Foundation Block



SeaStar Foundation Block

Iron Horse Farm Update: Irrigation for the entire six acre Foundation turf site has been installed but is not yet operational. Perimeter fencing has also been installed to keep wildlife out. There is a cover crop in place and the area will be fumigated later on this spring.



GSD Leadership Update

In recognition of his service from 2008 to 2014, Mr. John Raley was presented the Distinguished Service Award from GSD. Mr. Raley provided six years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership as a member of the Georgia Seed Development Commission. We appreciate his insight and look forward to having him continue to serve GSD as a member of the Advisory Committee. *(Pictured left: Mr. John Raley receives the GSD Distinguished Service Award from Chairman Ken Morrow.)*

Important Dates

- ***Georgia Crop Improvement 75th Celebration**, Athens, GA, March 23, 2016
- ***Georgia Crop Improvement Annual Meeting**, Athens, GA, March 24, 2016
- * **Southern AOSCA**, Lexington, KY; April 13-15, 2016
- ***Southeast Turfgrass Conference**, Tifton, GA; April 25-26, 2016
- Georgia Seed Development Annual Board Meeting**, Americus, GA, May 24-25, 2016

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

