



**GEORGIA SEED**  
DEVELOPMENT

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June 2024 Update  
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## **Seed for Thought**

### **Caleb Warrington, Senior Director**

Another season of Foundation peanut crop has been processed at Georgia Seed Development in Plains and by the end of May the last shipments of seed were going out the door. Our licensees and network of contract growers do an excellent job every year producing high-quality planting seed for the peanut industry. This is no easy task as mother nature tends to always throw us a curveball or two. Drought, flooding rain events, early season cold snaps, and late season hurricanes are all on the table. This year has been no different. A few large storms produced significant rainfall in May, especially in the southern part of the state. This paused planting activities as growers waited for field conditions to improve and flooded many areas which had already been planted. In many areas, water-logged fields with poor emergence necessitated decisions of whether to re-plant poor stands which impacts grower's bottom lines in an industry where margins are already razor thin. Here are a few decisions that growers are faced with in this scenario. First is the decision of whether to purchase additional seed and if so how much should be re-planted, to fill in gaps or re-plant entirely. Also, a ramification of re-planting is having stratified maturities at the end of the season. This is a situation growers would like to avoid. Growers must also weigh how weed and pest management will be affected if replanting is necessary. Lastly, in-furrow insecticide treatment like Thimet (for control of thrips and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus) can only be applied once per year. If it was applied during the first planting, what are the options now? The point here is that growers must make choices throughout the growing season that have potential repercussions later.

The good news for peanut growers in Georgia is that they have access to an outstanding resource that can aid tough decisions as described above. That is the UGA Peanut Team. The team includes extension agents, specialists, peanut researchers, weed scientists, entomologists, pathologists, and economists. It is a diverse group providing innovative research in breeding, genomics, and peanut production practices. They create educational materials and many are tasked with traveling around the state visiting grower fields to make assessments to provide management recommendations. Additionally, the team facilitates workshops, seminars, and field days. They truly function as a team, with each member playing a critical role with their own expertise.

Nothing makes this clearer than the "All About the Pod Podcast" led by Dr. Scott Monfort. He and other members of the team provide an excellent discussion and current update of peanut production in the southeast. They have come together to create a highly informative tool for growers and industry partners. Their camaraderie is apparent and it's clear they are striving towards the same goal: to make peanut farming profitable for Georgia farmers. I highly recommend giving it a listen if you would like to hear about science-backed peanut production from the foremost experts on peanut production in the Southeast.

Our goal at Georgia Seed Development is to produce the highest quality Foundation seed each year. The UGA peanut team helps us accomplish this through their research, education, and outreach efforts. I don't think there is a better group of scientists, researchers, and production specialists working on a specific crop in the country. Thanks for all you do.

## A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

### Licensing

This spring has been a busy time for licensing peanut varieties for the upcoming planting season. UGARF and GSD have completed 14 license agreements for peanut varieties from Dr. Branch's program. We have also completed 10 license agreements for peanut varieties developed by Dr. Holbrook's program. UGARF and GSD have also been working on a couple of international turf agreements along with a couple of amendments to current licenses.

### Marketing/Meetings

In late February I attended the Alabama Crop Improvement Association/ Southern Seed Certification Association annual meeting. I was able to meet with UGARF/GSD licensees of current UGA released varieties. The meeting had good attendance and highly informative speakers. In March Caleb Warrington, Terry Hollifield, Billy Skaggs, and I attended the Southern AOSCA meeting in Raleigh, NC. The attendance at this meeting was exceptional and I was able to discuss certification and production issues with southern foundation seed programs representatives. During the meeting we toured of a large sweet potato farm in eastern North Carolina. (pictured right)



This spring I met up with Dr. Mergoum and a potential wheat licensee at the UGA-SWREC near Plains where we looked at potential future releases and at the UGA State Variety Wheat Tests conducted in Plains. This meeting with the licensee gave us the opportunity to have a discussion of the characteristic the licensee is looking for in a wheat line for their market area.

### Education

In March members of the GSD staff attended the Annual Georgia Crop Improvement Meeting at the UGA Center for Continuing Education in Athens. The meeting featured speakers from ASTA and other seed and row crop production organizations.

## **Processing/Production**

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

### **PEANUT PRODUCTION**

Our goals for 2024 include contracting 2,232 acres of Foundation peanut production, bring in 5,000 farmer stock tons, and selling 6 million pounds of Foundation peanut seed. We will produce 14 peanut varieties ranging in acreage from less than an acre to 1,370 acres. These varieties include Georgia 06G, 1370 acres; Georgia 11J, 14 acres; Georgia 14N, 16 acres; Georgia 16HO, 10 acres; Georgia 18RU, 92 acres; Georgia 20 VHO, 30 acres; Georgia 21GR, 100 acres; TifJumbo, 7 acres; Tif NV HG, 480 acres; Georgia 22MPR, 100 acres; Georgia 23RKN, 10 acres; GA 182729, 1 acre; GA 183129, 1 acre; and GA 192710, 0.5 acre.

In our 2024 Contract Grower's Agreements GSD has included a \$10/ton hauling incentive to encourage our growers to deliver their peanuts to the GSD Foundation Peanut Center. This should reduce the amount of time GSD employees spend hauling peanuts from the field. We have also implemented our new Non-runner Peanut Variety Production plan and a new requirement on the amount of Breeder seed GSD required from the breeder to initiate Foundation production.

Excessive rainfall has prevented some contract growers from getting into the field. As of May 20, 2024 only 1,093 acres (49%) of our Foundation acreage had been planted.

### **TURFGRASS PRODUCTION**

It has been a decent spring for turfgrass growing conditions. As of the second week of May, bermudagrass is finally starting to grow in Athens and everything has greened up nicely. We have already begun to fulfill domestic orders of Tifway, TifTuf, and TifEagle. In addition, we have standing domestic orders for Tifway, TifTuf, Tif3D, and TifEagle. We are currently sold out of TifEagle in Athens and are awaiting it to grow back to fulfill additional orders. We also anticipate international shipments over the summer for Tifway, TifTuf, Tif3D, TifEagle and Seabreeze Paspalum.

### **SOYBEAN PRODUCTION**

We have plans to increase two forage indeterminate Group VIII soybean varieties for Dr. Li's program. We are also still shipping soybean seed to licensees and hope to compete these shipments prior to wheat harvest.

### **BAHIAGRASS PRODUCTION**

Foundation TifQuik bahiagrass harvest was successful last year from the GSD field in Plains. Seed quality and germination were excellent, and all the seed was cleaned, bagged, and is ready for distribution to the licensees. The existing licensees have indicated that they would like to purchase all of our seed produced with commitments to purchase more next year. Herbicide has already been applied for weed control to the field as well as an application of fertilizer. We plan to harvest seed again in July.

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**SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION**

Our Foundation wheat fields look great this year. Fungicide treatments were timely, so scab is minimal. Yields look promising at 60 to 65 bushels to the acre. We have once again had contamination issues from weeds this year and from rye and oats being spread by contaminated fertilizer spreaders. We have spent considerable time the past few weeks working through those issues and will continue to do so up until harvest. All roguing for off-types has been completed and the fields are starting to dry down with harvest occurring later this month. We plan to condition about 3,300 bushels in Athens and about 1,000 bushels in Plains.

**SIGHTS AROUND GEORGIA SEED**



Johnson Wheat Foundation Field  
Orchard Hill, GA



TifEagle Harvest in Athens, GA

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

AOSCA Annual Meeting  
June 16-19, 2024 Miramar, FL

GA/AL Seed Association Convention  
July 14-15, 2024 Miramar, FL

Southern Peanut Growers Conference  
July 17-19, 2024 Savannah, GA

