



## Seed for Thought

**Roger Boerma, Executive Director**

What ever happened to Common Sense? It seems at times that it disappeared so long ago that we have even lost sight of its meaning: Ideas like, “Knowing when to come in out of the rain”, “Why the early bird gets the worm”, “Life isn’t fair”, and “Maybe it was my fault”. Today we live in a society where regulations require that warnings be printed on a coffee cup to remind us that if we spill it in our lap that it could produce a burn. The Bayer Company has been found guilty in court of selling a popular herbicide that scientific studies have universally shown to be safe. Yet, Bayer was ordered to pay financial damages of millions in two cases and over a billion dollars in the third case. Our elected government officials cannot agree that there is a problem being created from literally thousands of illegal, undocumented individuals crossing our southern U.S. border every month. How can the highly educated individuals that we elect to represent us in Washington fail to find a collective way to address the issue?

I will not venture into the realm of why the more a person appears to advance in their formal education and standard of living the more they appear to disassociate with Common Sense. For what it is worth, I do believe there has to be an element of egotism that allows one to believe because of one’s educational degrees and professional stature that an obvious illogical decision can produce a positive outcome.

How do we avoid this trap of overlooking Common Sense in our daily decisions? A start is rediscovering that small person that resides on our shoulder, or at least did at one time. For those of us that have forgotten, this is our conscience. In most humans our parents, grandparents, and teachers worked hard to provide each of us a healthy level of Common Sense. In the less fortunate individuals without these mentors, many have to achieve this knowledge via trial and error.



I remember quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in our August 2017 GSD Update. Dr. King stated, “Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge, which is power; religion gives man wisdom, which is control. Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values. The two are not rivals.” I believe in this era where it appears we have lost a healthy dose of Common Sense that we could work to regain it by reviewing our commitments to our religious beliefs and our trust in the scientific process. In my view science provides us with tested information and our religious beliefs provide us with the values to properly interpret this information. Science helps us separate fact from opinion and religion helps us to separate right from wrong. When taken together a belief in religion and science provides us the opportunity to regain our collective Common Sense. Hopefully we can rediscover this collective insight sooner rather than later.

## Education

**Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager**

We hosted Dr. Donglin Zhang’s Plant Propagation class on February 14 at GSD in Athens. The class included about 40 students this year. Because of the large number of students we split the class into two equal groups. One half of the class initially met in the conference room for a slide presentations from Dr. Boerma and the other half went into the processing plant for tours of the conditioning equipment, warehouse, and cold storage facility with Doug and Corey. On April 25 we had several of the Athens staff attend the Southeastern Turfgrass Conference in Tifton.



*Students identify seeds with Doug Batchelder during the Plant Propagation class*



*Attendees of the Southeastern Turfgrass Conference watch a harvest demonstration*

## Georgia Seed Development/Georgia Crop Improvement Internships



GSD/GCIA would like to introduce the 2019 Summer Internship Recipients (*pictured left to right*): Ray Griffin of Hawkinsville, GA majoring in Agriscience and Environmental Systems, Sarah Wills of Loganville, GA majoring in Biology, and Nick Hollifield of Winder, GA majoring in Agribusiness. Students will visit and be exposed to UGA plant breeders, regional seed companies, seed conditioning facilities, turfgrass farms, plant nurseries, and the Georgia State Seed Lab

## Processing/Production

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

### 2019 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

We have a total of 13 small grains Foundation increases (separate varieties or breeding lines) this year growing on more than 160 acres; 11 wheats, 1 oat, and 1 rye. Five of the wheat varieties are already licensed to companies with one of them being from LSU. We have 4 new wheat varieties in production that show promise and may be licensed this fall. All of our Foundation wheat fields were treated at flowering with a fungicide and insecticide. We have experienced excellent wheat growing conditions in both North Georgia and in the Plains area and appear to have escaped significant problems from fusarium head blight with the exception of 2 late planted varieties. We plan to begin harvest during the last week of May in the Plains area and expect our North Georgia fields to be mature 7 to 10 days later.

### 2019 SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

We have plans to produce 3 soybean varieties this year: AGS Woodruff, Cook, and SH 7418LL

### 2019 TURFGRASS PRODUCTION

The weather is finally cooperating and soil temperatures have warmed up enough in Athens for all of our Foundation turfgrass fields to be fully greened up. We have already been able to fulfill some orders of Tifway, TifGrand, and TifEagle bermudagrasses. We also have remaining orders for TifTuf, Tifway, TifGrand, SeaStar Paspalum, and TifEagle to fill so it will likely be another busy summer for Foundation turfgrass sales. We also plan to renovate several of our existing Foundation turfgrass fields. These include Tifway at the UGA Iron Horse Farm, TifEagle at the GSD sand field in Athens, and Tifdwarf at GCIA in Athens.

### 2019 PECAN PRODUCTION

We harvested pecan graftwood in January and February at the UGA Horticulture Farm and from trees in South Georgia for distribution to licensees. We were also able to cut back all of the Foundation trees at the UGA Horticulture Farm in an effort to produce additional amounts of graftwood cuttings next year.

### 2019 BLUEBERRY PRODUCTION

There have been no any new orders for Foundation blueberries so far this year.

### 2019 PEANUT PRODUCTION

Peanut planting is underway and so far, conditions have been favorable with timely showers and adequate soil moisture. Our 2019 production plan consist of the following: 1,200 acres 06G, 100 acres 16HO, 100 acres 18RU, 100 acres TIF NV, 30 acres 14N, 20 acres 11J, and 4 acres of GA 142728. GA 142728 is a new experimental line developed in Dr. Branch's program.



## Licensing



**Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager**

This spring has been a busy time for licensing peanut varieties for the upcoming planting season. UGARF and GSD have just completed 9 license agreements for the new Gerogia-18RU peanut from Dr. Branch’s program. We have also complete 8 additional agreements for some of the older peanut varieties in the program. GSD and UGARF also just completed an agreement with a licensee for Dr. Conner’s new muscadine variety RubyCrisp™. We continue to receive inquiries about UGA blueberry varieties from time to time from potential licensees.

## Marketing

**Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager**

The end of February I attended the Turfgrass Producers International show in Charlotte, NC. The show was very well attended with over 450 people from 36 states and 9 countries participating in the meeting. From Charlotte I traveled to the Alabama Crop Improvement Association/Southern Seed Certification Association annual meeting in Panama City, FL. While there I was able to meet with several licensees of current UGARF/GSD released products. Terry Hollifield, Billy Skaggs, and I attended the Southern AOSCA meeting in Nashville, TN in April. The meeting was very well attended and I was able to visit with several of the other Southern Foundation Seed Programs representatives. The next meeting I attended was the Eastern Wheat Workers /Southern Small Grain Workers Conference in Raleigh, NC. While at this meeting I was able to travel from Raleigh and meet with some current licensees in the area.

This spring I helped arranged a tour for one of our licensees of Dr. Mergoum’s wheat breeding program in Plains. Dr. Mergoum, the licensee, and I looked at potential future releases and at the different wheat variety trials being conducted at the Southeast Research and Education Center. This tour gave us the opportunity to have discussions with the licensee and determine the characteristics the licensee prefers in new wheat lines for their market area.

### Upcoming Events

\*Georgia Seed Development Semi-Annual Meeting  
Americus, GA May 22, 2019

\*Georgia Alabama Seed Association Meeting  
Gulf Shores, AL July 14-15, 2019

\*21st Annual Southern Peanut Growers Conference  
Panama City, FL July 18-20, 2019

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

