



GEORGIA SEED
DEVELOPMENT

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

November 2018 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

While driving across Georgia I usually listen to one of two things on the radio, news or country-western music. Listening to the news has convinced me that we live in a society where we are experiencing a high level of tension, distrust, and negative discourse. Many Americans possess very strong opinions about various office holders, political candidates, and their proposed policies to improve our country. We seem very willing to dismiss another person's views without really listening to the reasons or rationale for them. We constantly hear ads that discredit someone as a cheat, liar, and overall unsavory individual. At times this negative culture has become so prevalent that the only solution I can connect with is in lyrics of the country songs such as "Get Along" sung by Kenny Chesney. In the song Chesney croons, *"Get along, on down the road, We've got a long long way to go, Scared to live, scared to die, We ain't perfect but we try, Get along while we can."*

Given the situation, what can each of us do to help reduce the tensions and work to achieve a more productive and rational community? There are a number of simple ideas that many of us were taught by our parents, teachers, and mentors. One of my favorites is to focus on facts rather than opinions. I realize that this alone is difficult in that there often appears to be alternate versions of facts available on social media, but I believe if we always ask ourselves if we know the information that we are so passionate about is factual rather than just repeating our opinions we are making progress. Another often discussed idea is to not take everything as personal. Surely we can disagree, but still have a high regard for each other.

Once we start dealing with facts and avoid making our differences personal, we can use the time-honored notion of carefully listening to the person we disagree with and try to find some good in their position. This approach often opens the door to productive discussions and can lead to identifying new and acceptable solutions to a previous conflict. I also believe that related to not taking things personal is using the word "I" in responding to a person that you disagree with rather than the word "you". Using the word "you" in a rebuttal is often interpreted as a personal attack.

Finally there will always be those situations where we cannot achieve common ground. Although we seldom encounter this outcome, when we do I was taught it is best to simply "agree to disagree" and work to maintain a relationship with the individual. As Kenny Chesney directs us in his song, *"Get along, on down the road, We've got a long long way to go."* I interpret him to mean we are very likely to need one another in the future. I hope that after this election cycle is completed we can work to become more civilized and respectful in our dialogue.

Education

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

GSD participated in the 2018 Southern Soybean Breeders Tour hosted by UGA and Dr. Li at the end of August. GSD's Athens facility was one of the afternoon stops for the group. GSD also hosted a stop the next morning at the UGA Iron Horse Farm. During the afternoon stop we split the group up into three subgroups of approximately 40 each. Dr. Boerma gave a presentation on the mission and market approaches of GSD. Terry Hollifield spoke on the importance of seed certification, while Doug, Corey, and Buddy provided a tour of the seed conditioning plant for the third group. The next morning at the Iron Horse Farm GSD was asked to provide a demonstration of Foundation sprig harvesting. I gave a presentation on the overall production of Foundation turfgrass in Georgia, while Corey and Buddy demonstrated the Koro sprig harvester.



Mr. Terry Hollifield speaking with a group on the importance of seed certification



Mr. Corey Booth giving a group an overview of the equipment used for seed conditioning.

Licensing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

UGARF and GSD sent out a bid notice for a new wheat variety developed by Dr. Mergoum's program at the end of September. We are currently in negotiations with a company for the new variety. Also, we have just finished relicensing a wheat variety that had been terminated by the original licensee. We are in the planning stages of development of license agreements for a new peanut variety and a new muscadine grape variety.

**SIGN
HERE**

Processing/Production

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

2018 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

Our 2018 small grain processing is complete and we have finished shipping various Foundation small grains varieties from our Athens and Plains locations. We are planning to produce Foundation seed of 13 wheat varieties on approximately 235 acres in Athens and Plains and one rye variety in 2019. These include one newly licensed wheat variety and four new experimental lines from the UGA breeding program. We currently have an adequate supply of both Foundation Wrens Abruzzi rye and GA Gore wheat. Harvests of Foundation TifQuik Bahia were completed and the seed will be conditioned this winter for spring sales.

2018 SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

We grew two Foundation soybean varieties in 2018: G13LL-44 (SH 7218LL) in Plains GA and AGS Woodruff in South Carolina. We've experienced good growing conditions for soybeans and obtained an excellent yield in Plains in spite of hurricane Michael.

2018 TURFGRASS PRODUCTION

We have filled several Foundation TifTuf, TifDwarf, and TifEagle orders since August, 2018. We have one international TifEagle order remaining to be filled. The new Tifton 85 field at UGA's J. Phil Campbell Research and Education Center in Watkinsville GA has been established and will be ready for harvest in the spring of 2019.

2018 PEANUT PRODUCTION

The GSD Foundation Peanut facility at Plains was very fortunate and received no structural damage from Hurricane Michael. The electricity was out for about 36 hours, but was restored well before we could get back in the field. We were able to get all the loaded drying trailers into a warehouse before the storm arrived so we didn't experience any damaged peanuts.

As of 5 November 2018 we have harvested, dried, and stored about 90% of our production. We have all the 14N and 11J varieties and less than 75 acres of 06G left to harvest. Growers are waiting on some favorable weather to wrap up this harvest season. The seed quality has been acceptable and yields have been good, but not great overall. This year the lighter soils are yielding better than the heavier, poorly drained soils. These fields went through some extended periods where they were just too wet. We are on track to meet our production goals. The following varieties were grown: 1,100 acres GA 06G, 100 acres GA 16HO, 100 acres of TIF NV, 70 acres GA 18RU, 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.



Georgia Seed Snapshots



New scale installed at the Athens facility



Recently installed small grain seed cleaner and seed treater in the Plains facility

Marketing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

The time has arrived to begin planning for the upcoming trade show season. I have been working with the different trade show organizations to reserve booth spaces for GSD and GICRS. As the planning continues Erin and I will be reviewing the various brochures we have developed and including updates and modifications. Erin continues to work to keep both the GSD and GICRS websites updated with new material.



Georgia Seed Development's Ralph Johnson was elected as Chairman of the American Peanut Shellers Association Associate Board. Congratulations Ralph!



Upcoming Events

*Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference
Savannah, GA January 10-13, 2019

*Georgia Peanut Farm Show and Conference
Tifton, GA January 17, 2019

*Golf Industry Show
San Diego, CA February 2-7, 2019

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

