



# GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

Athens Seed Facility  
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September 2021 Update  
[www.gsdc.com](http://www.gsdc.com)

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## **Seed for Thought**

**Roger Boerma, Executive Director**

We have arrived at another harvest season in Georgia. During this time of year we experience an increased amount of agricultural traffic on our rural roads. Most of these tractors and other self-propelled agricultural equipment are traveling at less than 25 miles per hour. During the 2021 Georgia Legislative session Representative Steven Meeks sponsored Georgia HB693, the "Tractor Bill", which was signed into law by Governor Brian Kemp on April 9, 2021. The bill defines farm equipment and describes the situations in which the driver of farm equipment is expected to move to the far right-hand side of the roadway and times in which the other drivers are responsibility to yield the right-of-way to the driver of the farm equipment.

Representative Meeks' bill got me to thinking of a previous Seed for Thought I had written in October, 2016. In that Update I mentioned a family friend, Debra Lassiter. Debra is the founder of the Etiquette and Leadership Institute and also operates a second business, Perfectly Polished, in Athens, Georgia. This is the lady that my wife invited to a Boerma family dinner to provide instruction to our granddaughter and, apparently her husband, on proper table manners. Although Debra's lesson didn't seem to improve my table manners a great deal, Debra told a story that evening that I believe bears repeating.

During the dessert that evening, Debra told of an experience when she was employed to provide an etiquette training session for the UGA football team at the Georgia Center in Athens, Georgia. That night she was completing her regular etiquette routine with the team when a rather large defensive lineman somewhat sheepishly raise his hand and asked the following question, "Miss Debra, do you do all this proper etiquette stuff when you are at home eating alone?" Debra being the consummate and seasoned professional turned to him and said, "Do you play on Saturday like you practice during the week?" He smiled and didn't feel the need to respond.

When it comes to safety, we need to keep Debra's story in mind. When we are tired, under pressure, and stressed the habits that we have formed during the other times of the year tend to direct our actions during a potentially hazardous situation. Being safety conscience is not just about what we do during a safety training session, it is about practicing safety each and every day.

Please keep Debra's story in mind and its link to everyone's safety. Also, please remember the directions in the new "Tractor Bill." It is important for all of us constantly practice "Safety first" each and every day. I hope you have a safe and bountiful harvest.



## A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

### Licensing

The licensing activity has remained steady for the past three months. We have had several requests for amendments to current licenses. UGARF and GSD continue to work with a licensee on finalizing an agreement for three new high oleic soybean varieties from Dr. Li's program. The UGA Variety Release Committee has recently approved the release of three new wheat lines from Dr. Mergoum's program and UGARF and GSD are developing the "Announcement of Licensing Opportunity" for these varieties.

### Marketing/Meetings

As we continue to navigate the current Covid-19 situation to see how it's going to affect the coming trade show and meeting season, I was able to recently attend two in-person meetings. The first was the Southern Peanut Growers Conference in Panama City, Florida. One could tell by the attendance at this meeting that everyone was ready to get out and attend an in-person meeting. The other in-person meeting was the GA-AL Seedsman meeting at St. Simmons Island, Georgia. There were over 140 people in attendance for this meeting. It was one of the largest crowds at this meeting in several years. After these two meetings I thought things were opening up but then the Alabama Crop Improvement meeting and the Georgia Peanut Tour were both cancelled due to the Covid-19 cases and hospitalization numbers increasing again. So this leaves us wondering how the January and February meetings and trade shows will be handled. I have already reserved booth space at some of the trade shows we attend. This is also the time of year to renew some marketing ads so Erin has been working on a redesigned marketing ad for the Georgia Grown magazine.



*Scenes from the Southern Peanut Growers Conference in Panama City, FL.*

## **Processing/Production**

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

### **2021 SMALL GRAINS HARVEST & PROCESSING**

**Plains Location:** Approximately 5,500 bushels were harvested and conditioned at Plains of the following wheat varieties: LA 754, SH 5550, Rutledge, PGX20-15, four new wheat increases from Dr. Mergoum's breeding program, and one from Dr. Harrison's breeding program at LSU.

Although we attempted to harvest the 3-acre Foundation Bahiagrass field at our farm in Plains on several occasions, we were unable to obtain any viable seed. The numerous afternoon rain showers prevented normal Bahiagrass seed maturity and harvest.

**Athens Location:** A total of 9,350 bushels of Foundation wheat were harvested from six varieties in North Georgia or in Plains and brought to our Athens facility for conditioning. They included: Riverland, Blanton, Johnson, AGS 3015, AGS 2021, and 161617E82733. After drying them, we were able to start conditioning and bagging wheat by mid-July. Preliminary germinations for all of varieties were in the 90s. Foundation GA Gore and Wrens Abruzzi Rye were also produced and will be available for sale this fall. At this time, we anticipate being finished processing and ready to ship wheat by the second or third week of September.

### **SOYBEAN PRODUCTION**

GSD has contracted for 140 acres of seven Foundation soybean varieties in Plains and Dublin Georgia along with Don Sharp in Allendale, South Carolina. These increases include Woodruff, AGS 738RR, AGS 6777C, SH7418LL, and three high oleic lines. With adequate rainfall throughout the summer the Foundation soybean crop is expected to produce an excellent seed yield.

### **2021 FOUNDATION TURFGRASS PRODUCTION**

GSD has filled domestic orders for TifTuf (1 order), TifEagle (1 order), Tifway (3 orders and 1 order waiting shipment) and another TifTuf order coming from the GSD Foundation field in California. We have also washed and shipped TifEagle to Japan and Vietnam and TifTuf to Japan this summer.

### **2021 FOUNDATION PEANUT**

GSD has 19 varieties and experimental lines planted on a total of 1,961 acres with 4,412 farmer stock tons contracted for harvest. Our 2021 Foundation peanut production plan includes the following varieties: 1,556 acres of GA 06G, 167 acres of Tif NV, 111 acres of GA 18RU, 36 acres of GA 14N, 56 acres of GA 20VHO, 22 acres of GA 11J, 5 acres of Tif Jumbo, 5 acres of GA 19HP, and 1 acre each of GA163120, GA142513, GA085249-R2, and GA085249-R3. There are 220 acres of Foundation GA 06-G peanuts grown on the Nilo Plantation south of Albany, GA. The plentiful summer rainfall and normal temperatures should provide for an excellent peanut yield and a good opportunity for good physiological seed quality.



## SIGHTS AROUND GEORGIA SEED



*FOUNDATION GA-06G FIELD AT NILO  
PLANATION SOUTH OF ALBANY, GA*



*AGS 738RR FOUNDATION FIELD  
IN ALLENDALE, SOUTH CAROLINA*



*WASHING SPRINGS OF TIFEAGLE  
FOR SHIPMENT TO VIETNAM*



*FOUNDATION TIFSPORT FIELD AT  
UGA IRON HORSE*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNBELT AG EXPO,  
OCTOBER 19-21, 2021, MOULTIE, GA

SOUTHEAST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 2 & 3, 2021, ASHBURN, GA

GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
MEETING, NOVEMBER 10, 2021  
ATHENS, GA

