



GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

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August 2022 Update
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Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

After a number of steady years in the production of Foundation seed and plant materials, the past year has been anything but calm. The 2022 spring started out with a number of our long-time contract Foundation peanut growers significantly reducing or totally opting out of peanut production. After the limited success of GSD increasing our price per ton of Foundation farmer stock in our grower production contracts, we ended up having to move about 600 acres of Foundation peanuts out of the Sumter County area to south of Albany, Georgia. Although we expect to meet our production goals in 2022, this movement of 25% of our Foundation peanut acreage will result in additional production costs (e.g., freight, drying, and grading).

Another issue arose when we attempted to rent a semi-tractor for our Foundation wheat harvest. Although this rental had not presented a problem the past 8 years, we couldn't get anyone to rent us a road tractor this spring. This resulted in the GSD Board approving the purchase of a reliable used semi-tractor.

The GSD Board had previously approved the construction of a new Federal/State Grading building in Plains. After their approval GSD experienced a doubling in the cost of building. Furthermore, GSD was unable to contract with anyone to build it in 2022. When we went to order a new forklift the provider indicated it would require a minimum of 12 months to deliver it. One of our Board members has suggested that GSD immediately order all critical equipment that is needed during the next two years.

In addition to the examples listed above is the issue of employee compensation. It is obvious that employees require additional take-home money to cover the recent increased costs of transportation, food, and other living expenses. Finding the money to compensate staff during these inflationary times is a challenge. GSD is fortunate to have Board members that keep in focus both the need to maintain a talented staff along with controlling production costs.

The obvious outcome from the above examples is the increased cost of Foundation seed and plant materials. Like companies that provide GSD services and products, we had to respond by raising our prices. Although there is the thought that one wants to live in interesting times, I will offer the previous stable years weren't all that bad. I wish each of you the very best in properly navigating the current challenges.

A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Licensing

Licensing activity has remained steady during the past two months. We have approved several license amendments for various crops. GSD and UGARF are working to complete a turfgrass agreement for a new turf variety out of Dr. Schwartz's program. We are also anticipating the release of some new wheat lines from Dr. Mergoum's program.

Marketing/Meetings

Although it is still the middle of the summer, it is time to begin making plans and filling out exhibitor contracts for the trade shows this coming winter. I was able to attend the Georgia Alabama Seedman meeting in July in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The meeting had exceptionally good attendance along with some interesting speakers.

Education

This year we were truly fortunate to have two outstanding interns whom were introduced in the June Update. A significant part of their internship was spent traveling around Georgia with GSD or GCIA personnel to visit various agricultural businesses. The interns were able to travel to a local turf farm with GCIA personnel to observe how they perform turfgrass inspections. In the Northeast Georgia area the interns were able to visit with a regional grass seed distributor. Their tours also included stops in Atlanta at the Georgia Department of Agriculture along with a trip to Tifton to learn about the operations of the Department of Agriculture Seed Lab. The interns also visited with a large sod production company in middle Georgia and toured our Foundation Peanut Center in Plains. The interns along with Dr. Warrington were able to participate in the UGA Plant Breeding Practicum course which included stops at Griffin, Tifton, and Athens to visit with various UGA and industry plant breeders and their staff. In addition, GSD staff from Athens attended the 2022 Turfgrass Research Field Day in Griffin GA on 3 August. The field day included 10 guided research stops in the morning and eight self-guided stops after lunch. Pictured right, you will find the interns aiding in the planting of a TIF3D foundation field in Nashville, Georgia.



Processing/Production

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

FOUNDATION PEANUT

This year was very challenging in getting growers to commit acres to Foundation peanut production due to competitive commodity prices of other crops and the rise in costs of fuel and other inputs. This resulted in a reduction in Foundation peanut acres in the Sumter County area. In order to reach our production goals, GSD increased our southwest Georgia acres of GA 06G by 90% from last year. Of GSD's 1,412 acres of Foundation 06G production, 566 acres are being grown in southwest Georgia and will be brought in to our Plains Seed Facility on hopper bottom trailers. These peanuts will be dried and graded at a GCIA approved buying point in southwest Georgia. Four hundred acres of GA 06G were planted from an increase of the original GA 06G breeder seed provided by Dr. Branch. One hundred and seventy seven acres of Tif NV Hi O/L, 122 acres of GA 18RU, 79 acres of GA 20VHO, 23 acres of Tif Jumbo, 22 acres of GA 14N, 18 acres of Tif NV HG, 13 acres of GA 21GR, 9 acres of SP-RKN, 6 acres of GA 163120, 0.05 acre of GA 163103, 1 acre of CB7, 0.7 acre of CB2, and 0.6 acre of CB1 round out our Foundation peanut production. So far, we have experienced a very hot and dry month of June and a very wet month of July.

FOUNDATION TURFGRASS

All Foundation turfgrass fields have greened up nicely and have either been harvested or are currently ready for harvest. New Foundation fields of TifTuf and Tif3D have been planted and will be ready for harvest by late fall or spring of 2023. We harvested and washed Foundation Tif3D sprigs for a new licensee in Nashville, GA and fulfilled a domestic order for TifTuf for a new licensee. We have domestic TifEagle orders that will be filled within the coming weeks. GSD has had to delay a shipment of TifGrand to Vietnam due to the absence of rentable mobile refrigeration units and the lack of direct temperature controlled international flights to Vietnam.



TifEagle Foundation Field



*Sealsle Supreme Paspalum
Foundation Field*

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FOUNDATION SOYBEAN

Foundation increases of six soybean varieties have been planted on a total of 80 acres in South Carolina and Plains. The varieties include: AGS Woodruff, AGS 6777C, G13LL-44, G17PR-1053HOLLR1, G17PR-1207HOLL, and G15PR-340. The two AGS varieties planted in South Carolina are flowering now with excellent growth. The remaining varieties were planted after small grains in Plains and are just entering the reproductive phase.



Foundation AGS 6777C



Foundation AGS Woodruff

FOUNDATION SMALL GRAINS AND BAHIAGRASS

Plains: GSD had a successful wheat harvest in South Georgia, with six wheat varieties (SH 5550, LA16020, GA131246LDH-146-18E35, AGS 4023, AGS 2024, AGS 3026) resulting in approximately 3,000 bushels being conditioned and bagged in Plains. Attempts to harvest TifQuik Bahiagrass from the GSD farm in Plains were difficult due to the numerous July rains. We were finally able to get into the field and harvest a limited amount of Bahiagrass seed.

Athens: Approximately 13,000 bushels of 15 different wheat lines were produced in either North Georgia or at Plains and brought into our Athens Seed Facility. These include Riverland, Rutledge, Blanton, Johnson, Go Wheat 2032, LA754, AGS 2021, AGS 3040, AGS 4043, 5 experimental UGA lines, and one experimental line from LSU. All lines were dried in our grain bins and preliminary germination tests have been in the 80-90% range. The usual amounts of Foundation GA Gore wheat and Wrens Abruzzi rye were harvested in 2022 and will be available for sale this fall. We will begin shipping wheat to licensees by the end of August and we expect to complete small grain conditioning by early October.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GEORGIA PEANUT TOUR
SEPT 13-15, 2022 TIFTON, GA

SUNBELT AG EXPO
OCT 18-20, 2022 MOULTRIE, GA

GSDC ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2022 ATHENS, GA

