



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

February 2025 Update
www.gsdc.com

Plains Peanut Facility
1547 US Hwy 280 W
Plains, GA 31780
229-824-7881

Seed for Thought

Caleb Warrington, Senior Director

The Georgia Farm Monitor television program is dedicated to sharing news and stories about agriculture in and around Georgia. On the air since the mid-1960s, it is produced in association with the Georgia Farm Bureau and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Today, the Georgia Farm Monitor is broadcast on 11 television stations across Georgia, as well as on GPB and nationally on RFD-TV. One segment of the show is hosted by Dr. Nick Furman, also known as "Ranger Nick." Nick's portion of the program presents an entertaining and educational overview of interesting aspects of agriculture and natural resources in our region. In addition to his hosting duties, Ranger Nick is the Associate Dean for Outreach and the Meigs Professor of Environmental Education in the Warnell School of Forestry at the University of Georgia. The Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship is the university's top teaching honor. His work at UGA and hosting on the Farm Monitor has made him a well-known figure on campus and in the forestry and agricultural communities. He was even invited to present a TEDxUGA talk on campus a few years back.

On February 4th, Georgia Seed Development welcomed Ranger Nick to the Plains Foundation Peanut Center. Along with producer Ray D'Alessio, JT Tanner, and myself, Ranger Nick hosted his regular segment for the Georgia Farm Monitor program. We spent three hours touring the facilities while together to produce an educational segment about what we do at the Georgia Seed Peanut Center. We discussed seed certification and how Foundation peanuts are grown and processed. Topics highlighted with Ranger Nick were the peanut drying process, Federal State Inspection Service grading, storage of farmer stock peanuts, and seed shelling and treating. We covered a lot of information quickly, but he always nailed his parts on the first take. It's clear why he has become a sought-after speaker, mentor, and expert on agricultural education. He has a talent for breaking down complex topics and making them relatable and understandable to a broad audience.

The Georgia Farm Monitor has been an important part of agriculture teaching and outreach in the state for over fifty years. Thank you to Ranger Nick for providing Georgia Seed Development the opportunity to be share our mission and role in the peanut industry.



A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Licensing

The licensing activity is beginning to pick up with people starting to think about spring and which peanut varieties they want to plant this year. We have already had requests for license agreements for TifNV-HG and Georgia-22MPR. UGARF and GSD are also working on a license agreement for a new zoysiagrass developed by Dr. Schwartz's program.

Marketing/Meetings

Doug and I attended the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah. *(pictured below, left)* Attendance at this show was great and we received questions about when UGA would be releasing a new Blueberry variety. The next meeting on the agenda was the Southern Seed Association. Attendance at the meeting was exceptionally good and it provided a chance to meet with several of our out-of-state licensees. Roger, Caleb, and JT attended the Georgia Peanut Farm Show in Tifton. Here they received questions about the availability of Foundation peanut seed for the coming spring and received grower feedback on current varieties being produced. The first two weeks of February were busy, the first week I was in San Diego CA to attend the Golf Industry Show. We had a display at the trade show and were able to meet with turfgrass licensees from around the world *(pictured below, right)*. The attendance at the show was the highest it has been in the past 3 years which indicates that golf might be coming back a little. The second week was the Turfgrass Producers International Trade Show and Field Day in San Antonio. Billy Skaggs and I traveled to Texas for this meeting. The meeting and field day had an attendance of almost 900 people. The next meeting will be the Alabama Crop Improvement meeting in Auburn Alabama which Roger and I will be attending.



Education

GSD hosted a tour for Dr. Donglin Zhang's HORT 3620: Plant Propagation class on February 20 at the Athens Facility. We are also planning on a number of the GSD staff attending the Georgia Crop Improvement annual meeting on March 6th in Athens.

Processing/Production

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

FOUNDATION PEANUT

Shelling began on November 8, 2024. We have shelled 53% of our farmer stock inventory (total farmer stock inventory 10,260,174 lbs by February 12, 2025) and have 43% of our inventory treated (projected total seed stock: 5,929,763 lbs). Our preliminary germination reports indicated that we could shell and treat GA 06G and Tif NV HG simultaneously.

We began shelling and treating GA 06G on January 06, 2025, and plan to begin shelling and treating Tif NV HG at the end of February. Our final seed product looks excellent, due, in part, to the new electric eye system that was installed for this year. The 2025 seed allocations will be finalized this week and pre-orders for 2026 will be sent out February 17, 2025.

FOUNDATION TURFGRASS

Orders for Foundation turfgrass are beginning to come in for 2025 for the TifEagle and Tifway varieties. We are still working through a backlog of orders from 2024 for TifEagle and Tifway, but we hope to address these in early spring. In the meantime, there are small international orders of both Tif3D and TifEagle going to Thailand and Mexico, respectively.

FOUNDATION SMALL GRAINS

Foundation wheat acres increased from 2024. We are growing one Foundation rye increase, one Foundation oat, and seven Foundation wheat increases for licensees on a total of 305 acres.

We will also be producing a total of three Breeder wheat increases from Dr. Mergoum's UGA program as well as two wheat increases from Dr. Harrison's program at LSU. Our Foundation wheat increases are looking good with more than adequate rainfall as well as adequate cold temperatures in January. We will continue scouting regularly.

SOYBEAN PROCESSING

Our two harvested experimental indeterminate forage soybeans are being stored currently for the licensee. There are about 50 bushels each. Preliminary germination tests came in the middle 90s.



SIGHTS AROUND GEORGIA SEED



Foundation Wrens Abruzzi Field in Gibson, GA



Experimental UGA variety wheat field, Plains, GA



Ranger Nick and Dr. Warrington filming for Georgia Farm Monitor in Plains, GA.



Foundation Peanut seed being transferred to a peanut wagon in Plains, GA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Georgia Crop Improvement Annual Meeting
March 7, 2025, Athens, GA

Georgia Seed Development Semi-Annual Meeting
May 21, 2025 Americus, GA

Southern Peanut Growers Conference
July 23-25, 2025 Miramar Beach, FL

