



GEORGIA SEED
DEVELOPMENT

Athens Seed Facility
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November 2022 Update
www.gsdc.com

Plains Peanut Facility
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Seed for Thought

Caleb Warrington, Senior Director of Operations

When I was hired into private industry as a soybean breeder ten years ago, I was sure that I had the skills and training to get the job done right off the bat. With a newly minted degree I assumed that I had officially “arrived”. That could not have been any further from reality. After just a few weeks on the job I felt out of place, unproductive, and unhappy. In time, I realized that this was going to be just as much plant breeding as it was farm management, repairing and maintaining equipment, budgeting, and managing people (the most important by far). Most of which I had zero experience doing. At some point during that first year, I stopped worrying about what I thought knew, and just tried to learn from everyone else. It was pretty simple: If they knew about something I didn’t, I asked them about it. And that seemed to happen every day.

Fast forward to March, and I began a new phase of my career at Georgia Seed Development. I’m no longer planting trials, making selections, or crunching through trial data and making advancement decisions each fall and winter, but there are many familiar and similar aspects of this new role at GSD. As a breeder I am certainly aware of the importance of producing genetically pure seed lots and reducing the amount of off-type material in the breeding pipeline. And the end goal is still the same: To provide growers with the best product possible. Nevertheless, it’s safe to say that there has been a tremendous amount of new information to process.

Since plant breeders tend to focus on one or just a few closely related species in their research programs, I have been busy trying to learn about the array of species that GSD handles. In total there are over 100 varieties of Foundation seed or vegetative material in the GSD system. Between that and peanut seed conditioning, maintaining and digging turfgrass, and small grain harvest, there has been no shortage of learning opportunities over the last 7 months. And that is just to name a few.

Every one of our GSD employees seems to bring unique set of skills and knowledge. I have been able to lean on them during this transition period, which has shortened my learning curve immensely. It’s fitting that one of GSD’s core values is promoting continuous learning; I truly believe in its importance. But you must be willing to seek out learning opportunities. It took some time for me realize this. Once I did, it was a total game changer. It’s also just like many other things in life; knowledge is a journey, not a destination.

A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Licensing

The licensing committee will be meeting in the few weeks to review the new products that have been released for UGA and may be available for licensing in the spring.

Marketing/Meetings

As the trade show season is approaching, I have been busy securing booth spaces at all the trade shows we have decided to exhibit at in the next few months. Erin and I will be reviewing our current promotional material and looking at new material for the shows.

Education

I visited with two of our newer licensees in Alabama last month. While at each location I toured the facilities and discussed the product that they have licensed from UGA.

GSDC FACILITY UPDATE

Caleb Warrington, Senior Director of Operations

Workplace safety is a priority at Georgia Seed Development. For that reason, we felt that it was time to evaluate our workplace safety measures and plan moving forward. After reaching out to a few peanut buying points/shellers in the industry regarding their own safety training, GSD decided to contract with Safe Workforce Development (Watkinsville, GA). They provide training, consulting, and on-site services. On Sept 12, 2022, Tracey Crawford, Director, of Safe Workforce Development visited our Athens office and toured the seed cleaning facility. On September 24, Tracey and Josh White from Agritrust did the same in Plains. Agritrust is currently developing new safety programs for other peanut buying points; they are also the workers compensation insurance company that GSD currently uses. These visits were just an introduction to what we do at GSD and our associated facilities.

Tracey provided GSD with an informal safety review for the Plains facility on October 19-20 and on October 25 for Athens. These reviews will include confirmation of OSHA programs and training under 29 CFR (Occupational Safety and Health Standards per the Federal Government). Both sites were toured; currently we are waiting for informal reports from Safe Workforce Development. Once we receive reports from Tracey, we will determine our next plan of action. We will also begin scheduling safety training sessions in Athens and Plains.

Processing/Production

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

FOUNDATION PEANUT

This year GSD produced increases of 18 varieties/lines on a total of 1,883 acres. Harvest in 2022 started earlier than it has in the past few years. We began bringing in farmer stock peanuts on September 22, 2022. Our yields and grades of our earlier planted peanuts were lower than expected but have picked up with the later planted peanuts. Our harvest is expected to be completed by Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and our final day of grading will be Wednesday, November 9, 2022. To date we have graded and stored: GA 06G- 6,222,365 lbs. (with an additional 250,000 lbs. of farmer stock waiting to be graded), GA 18RU- 569,439 lbs., Tif Jumbo- 112,631 lbs., Tif NV Hi O/L- 769,762 lbs., GA 14N-111,088 lbs., GA 20VHO- 279,006 lbs., Tif NV HG- 116,997 lbs., and GA 21GR-58,169 lbs.

We have harvested 3,400 lbs. of CB7, a new experimental line developed by Dr. Corley Holbrook. CB7 has a high level of resistance to leafspot. GSD will work with Dr. Holbrook to increase 2 acres of CB7 in Puerto Rico this winter. In addition, we have a 6-acre increase of GA 22 MPR waiting to be weighed and graded, along with several experimental lines from Drs. Branch and Holbrook.

FOUNDATION TURFGRASS

All of our Foundation turf fields are heading into fall dormancy. We recently shipped a load of foundation TifTuf to a licensee and may have another partial load to send out just before Thanksgiving. It also appears that we will have a couple of small loads of TifEagle that will be shipped before the end of the year. We've already taken orders for Tifway and TifEagle for spring 2023.



*New TifTuf Foundation Field
Supersod, Fort Valley, GA*



*Tif3D Foundation field
Pike Creek Turf, Adel, GA*

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2022 FOUNDATION SOYBEAN HARVEST

Exceptionally dry weather and cooler than average temperatures over the past six weeks have led to an early soybean season. All of our varieties were ready 10 days to 2 weeks ahead of normal. We harvested four different varieties in Plains: G13LL-44, G17PR-1053HOLLR1, G17PR-1207HOLL (Conventional), and G15PR-340 (Conventional). The Plains Foundation production caught up from a relatively late planting date and the yields were adequate for the needs of the licensees. GSD had another two varieties of 10 acres each planted in South Carolina and they are AGS Woodruff (Conventional) and AGS 6777C (Conventional). Woodruff was harvested the first week of November and an adequate amount was obtained. Unfortunately, it appears that AGS 6777C has been a victim of improperly applied insecticide and velvetbean caterpillar infestation. This variety was a total loss and was not harvested.

2023 FOUNDATION SMALL GRAINS

We are still in the process of shipping wheat in Athens with about 75% of it shipped. The rest should be shipped within the next week or so. For 2023, we intend to produce Foundation seed of nine varieties (7 wheats: GA Gore, Johnson, Go Wheat 2032, LA754, Riverland, Blanton, and SH 5550), Wrens Abruzzi rye, and Horizon 306 oats. Also, there are four new increases from Dr. Mergoum's UGA wheat breeding program as well as one new increase from Dr. Harrison's LSU wheat breeding program. Total acreage should be just under 200.



*G15PR-340 Conventional
Plains, GA*



*G17PR-1053HOLLRI
Plains, GA*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Small Grains/Soybean Expo
December 15, 2022, Perry, GA

Southeast Fruit and Vegetable Show
January 5-8, 2023, Savannah, GA

Georgia Peanut Farm Show
January 18-19, 2023 Tifton, GA

