



# UGA extension

Ag Notes | Webster County and Stewart County | June 2017

## Dates to Remember

July 13, 2017  
Sunbelt Ag Expo  
Field Day  
Moultrie, GA

October 21, 2017  
Webster County 4-H  
Fall Carnival  
Preston, GA

## Vidalia Onions

\$10 for 10 pounds

We still have extras at the Webster County Extension Office!!

## Ag Thoughts

By Dr. Laura A. Griffeth, County Extension Agent

The more things change, the more they stay the same. I'm sitting here working on this newsletter watching it rain all morning long. This reminds me of a winter rain compared to a summer rain. But it is nice to hopefully get our herbicides activated rather than just sitting there. And we just might make decent dryland corn for a change.

I also had reports of lots of lesser cornstalk borers already being found in volunteer and planted peanuts. We normally think of LCBs as a hot and dry weather pest, but who knows anymore. Our peanut entomologist relayed information about a field in southeast Georgia with 60% damage from LCBs. So it definitely pays to be vigilant.

The rain can really mess with your timing of fungicide and herbicide sprays. But it is more crucial than ever to be protected before any known rain event. Get your fungicides out timely. Get your POST herbicide applications out timely. I can't stress it enough – but BE TIMELY!

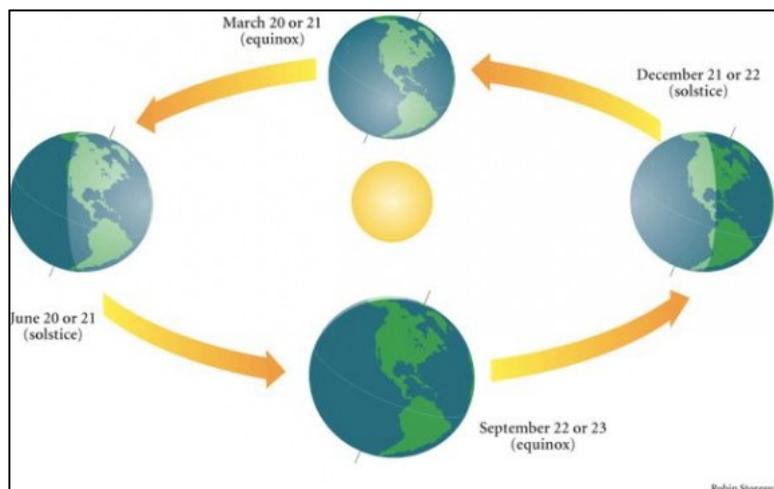


Some of the first blooms in the area from cotton planted April 14

Lesser Cornstalk Borer – you won't see this guy from the cab of the truck



Solstices and Equinoxes



Robin Storey

## Slowest sunsets around solstices

By Bruce McClure in Astronomy Essentials

The sun actually sets more slowly around the time of a solstice. The slowest sunsets (and sunrises) occur at or near the solstices. The fastest sunsets (and sunrises) occur at or near the equinoxes. This is true whether you live in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere. And, by the way, when we say sunset here, we're talking about the actual number of minutes it takes for the body of the sun to sink below the western horizon.

When is the solstice? In 2017, the Northern Hemisphere's summer solstice (Southern Hemisphere's winter solstice) will fall on June 21 at 4:24 UTC. In the United States, that translates to June 21 at 12:24 am Eastern Time.

Why does the sun set so slowly around the solstice? At the June (or December) solstice, the sun rises and sets farthest north (or south) of due east and due west. The farther the sun sets from due west along the horizon, the shallower the angle of the setting sun. That means a longer duration for sunset at the solstices. Meanwhile, at an equinox, the sun rises due east and sets due west. That means – on the day of an equinox – the setting sun hits the horizon at its steepest possible angle.

The sunset duration varies by latitude, but let's just consider one latitude, 40° north, the latitude Denver or Philadelphia in the United States, or Beijing in China. At that latitude, on the day of equinox, the sun sets in about 2 and 3/4 minutes. On the other hand, at 40° north latitude, the solstice sun sets in roughly 3 and 1/4 minutes.

At more northerly temperate latitudes, the sunset duration is greater; and at latitudes closer to the equator, the sunset duration is less. Near the Arctic Circle (65° north latitude), the duration of a solstice sunset lasts about 15 minutes; at the equator (0° latitude), the solstice sun takes a little over 2 and 1/4 minutes to set. Regardless of latitude, however, the duration of sunset is always longest at or near the solstices.

Actually, the sunset and sunrise are a tad bit longer on the December solstice than they are on the June solstice. That's because the sun is closer to Earth in December than it is in June. Therefore, the sun's disk looms a bit larger in our sky in December. Additionally, the closer December sun moves eastward upon the ecliptic at a faster clip, helping to retard the December solstice sunset (and sunrise) even more. For instance, at 50° north latitude, the winter solstice sunset (sunrise) lasts about 4 minutes and 18 seconds, or about 8 seconds longer than the sunset (sunrise) on the summer solstice.

Note: Diagram on page 1

### Synthetic Microfibers Causing Pollution From Georgia Cotton Commission

In this week's Georgia Cotton Commission update we want to discuss synthetic microfibers and their harm to the environment. Multiple studies have shown that microfibers from synthetic clothing are one of the leading causes of plastic pollution. One university study in particular has shown that these extremely small fibers are shed from synthetic materials, primarily synthetic clothing during the washing process, and are generally not visible without magnification. Once the microfibers are shed they can end up in the environment, usually in the ocean or rivers via wastewater without any visible effects on the environment. Only recently have studies shown that these microfibers are actually one of the leading causes of plastic pollution in the oceans. These studies confirm what many in the cotton industry have said for years: That cotton is a truly natural and sustainable crop that produces natural and sustainable products. Garments made from cotton are biodegradable and will return to a natural carbon state once placed in a landfill.

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## **Peanut Pointers**

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Dr. Scott Monfort, editor

### **Peanut Marketing Update**

**Adam N. Rabinowitz, Assistant Professor Agricultural and Applied Economics**

The 2016/17 U.S. national marketing year average price for peanuts was \$388/ton as of May 20, 2017. At the current price, the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) rate to be paid in October 2017 will be \$147/ton. Although a final price and PLC rate will not be available until the end of the marketing year (July 31), it is not expected to change much from the current level.

As of May 28, 2017, a total of 83 percent of peanuts were planted in Georgia. The USDA has projected an increase in production for 2017, although demand is also projected to increase, surpassing production and resulting in an ending stock that is close to current levels. All this translates into stable peanut prices moving forward.

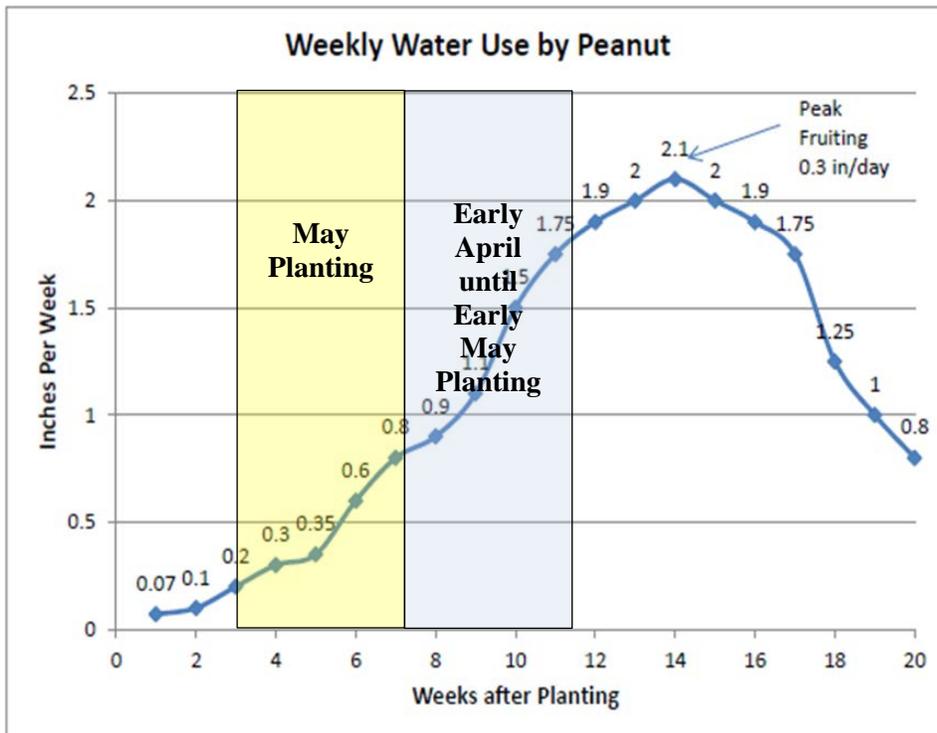
The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) issued a proposed rule change on May 25, 2017, to revise the minimum quality and handling standards for domestic and imported peanuts. The change would increase the allowance for damaged kernels under Segregation 1 from not more than 2.49 percent to not more than 3.49 percent. The Peanut Standards Board recommended these changes in the fall of 2016. Now that the proposed rule has been published in the federal register there is an open comment period that closes on June 26, 2017. More information on the proposed rule and how to issue comments can be found at this website: [https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=AMS\\_FRDOC\\_0001-1593](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=AMS_FRDOC_0001-1593).

### **Early Season Irrigation for Peanuts**

**Wesley Porter, Extension Precision Ag and Irrigation Specialist, UGA and Pam Knox, Agricultural Climatologist**

We have only been receiving very sporadic rainfall and have had some periods of very hot and dry weather recently. The early heat allowed producers to get peanuts planted earlier than usual in some cases; however, these periods of hot dry weather have really hurt some of the dryland crops and caused some irrigation systems to be operated nearly continuously. The water use curve for peanuts is shown below. Wes is in the process of updating this curve with a 15-year average of evapotranspiration data. This update is going to focus on peanuts that were planted in the months of April and May (which should be most if not all peanuts in GA!). It is important to note that these water use curves were developed using long-term averages. This means that in years that are hotter and drier than average more water will be required and in years that are cooler and wetter than average less water will be required. We suggest that you check your local weather station's evapotranspiration data periodically to see what is being lost to evaporation.

Ideally by this point peanut planting is done and the crop should be emerged and growing well. If you were able to take advantage of the early warm weather and get peanuts planted during the April through early May time frame, you will be moving into peak water requirements in about a month. These peanuts currently (throughout the month of June) require around 1 to 1.75 inches per week from the beginning to the end of the month respectively. If you missed that first window and have just finished up planting your peanuts during the month of May, then you are still at a low water use stage. Those peanuts are ranging somewhere between 0.2 and 0.8 inches required per week. It has been hot and dry so manage your irrigation carefully. Overwatering can hurt just as much as under-watering and wastes a lot of water and pumping fuel too. Focus on keeping a record of local rainfall events and especially your irrigation applications. Just blindly irrigating a set number of times per week throughout the season will not aid you in properly meeting your requirements for the crop. Irrigating blindly will also not help in maximizing yield potential nor profit potential. Remember this water requirement is IRRIGATION plus RAINFALL! Irrigation may not even be required in the first few weeks when water needs are low if normal rain falls.



Here's what we expect for weather in the next few weeks. Rainfall is expected to fall regularly through the peanut-growing region, although of course there will be dry days interspersed with the wet ones. For the first two weeks of June, temperatures are expected to be relatively cool, which will reduce evapotranspiration and result in less water needed. Because of the combination of cooler temperatures and normal rainfall, irrigation needs are likely to be reduced. Later in the month temperatures may rebound to hotter conditions. The summer as a whole has an

increased chance of above-normal temperatures, so that will impact water needs later in the growing season. The tropical season starts on June 1 and is expected to be a little more active than usual, which could bring heavy rain to areas along the paths of any storms that form while leaving other areas high and dry.

In summary, good record-keeping on weather data and irrigation applications along with a sound irrigation scheduling strategy can aid significantly in increasing profitability in multiple ways, including reductions in irrigation applications, which correlate to reductions in energy requirements and potential increases in yield.

### Pointers

**Scott Monfort, Associate Professor**

Peanut planting should be winding down last week. Hopefully growers have received enough rain to finish planting and allow seed to germinate and emerge. Remind growers that the yield potential is lower in June planted peanuts compared to May planted. The main reason for the lower potential is that they are pushing maturity into late October - November, which can start to get cold enough to stop normal maturation of the pods, thus lowering yield and grade potential. The only reason I bring this up is to help them budget accordingly. All we can hope for is we have a warm fall.

How does the crop look? Although I have made several field calls regarding stand issues, the peanut crop overall looks pretty good so far. The crop is anywhere from just planted to over 60 days old. For the early planted crop, growers are in full swing controlling diseases and weeds and applying gypsum. I have not heard of any major issues thus far except for the stand issues and some dry pockets.



FloRun 157 Poor Germination

## **Disease Management Decisions for the Month of June**

### **Robert Kemerait, Professor and Extension Specialist**

The biggest change that I have observed in peanut disease management programs during my time at the University of Georgia has been the increased emphasis on early-season decisions to improve disease control throughout the season. Today, peanut growers have an ever-increasing number of options and recommendations for disease management during the first 3 to 45 days after planting. Options are a good thing. Increased availability of new fungicides and, perhaps more importantly, new strategies for use of fungicides, can help the grower to better control disease and also to improve profits. However, increased options can also bring frustration to the grower in deciding what is “best”. The decisions for early season may also result in significant added expense that is not realized in value of increased yield.

The first 30 days of a peanut season are typically “quieter” as far as diseases as are concerned than is the rest of the season. By “quieter” I mean that the immediate threat from disease is generally lower than it is later on. As the season progresses, risk for diseases increases for several important reasons. First, the more time a crop is in the field, the more time that it is exposed to disease and pathogens. Second, as the season progresses, the amount of inoculum (for example spores of the leaf spot pathogen) continues to increase and build. Third, as the season progresses and the peanut plants grow larger, there is more tissue that is at risk (leaf, root and stem) and also the microenvironment within the leaf canopy is more conducive for disease development. Lastly, the rainfall and weather patterns during the summer months may be more conducive for disease development than was the early season.

As you know all too well, the first 30 to 45 days are not without risk to disease. *Aspergillus* crown rot, for example, has been severe in a number of fields this season and has caused some growers to replant their crop. *Aspergillus* crown rot seems to be most severe in fields, especially non-irrigated fields, when conditions are very hot and dry. The young, succulent hypocotyl/taproot of the peanut seedling can be injured by such soils leading to more severe outbreaks of crown rot. *Aspergillus* crown rot is also often associated with farmer-saved seed.

However, beyond the significance of *Aspergillus* crown rot, disease management decisions made during the first 30 to 45 days after planting are important in the successful management for the rest of the season. Without question, it is during this part of the season that the foundation for leaf spot management is established. Increasingly, it is also during this part of the season that the foundation for the most aggressive white mold programs is established.

In 2000, when I started, most fungicide programs started with chlorothalonil applications, 1.5 pt/A, at approximately 30 and 44 days after planting. Some growers substituted Tilt/Bravo in one or both of these application timings; however, fungicide programs all typically included 30 and 44 DAP applications. There is nothing wrong with such a strategy, but here are the new opportunities and options for our fungicide options following planting and through the first six weeks of the season:

1. 30 and 44 days after planting remain important dates for establishing a good leaf spot program. These applications generally insure that the crop is protected before any significant infection by leaf spot pathogens has occurred.
2. Seventeen years ago, most growers were using chlorothalonil or Tilt/Bravo; today there are an increased number of options and also Tilt/Bravo is not to be used.
3. On well-rotated fields and/or where a more-leaf-spot-resistant variety is planted, use of chlorothalonil is likely appropriate and economical. However, where risk to leaf spot is increased (for example, as measured using Peanut Rx), or for increased “insurance”, it often becomes prudent to be more aggressive with a leaf

spot program. More aggressive leaf spot programs include fungicides early in the season with greater systemic activity (chlorothalonil is only a protectant).

4. Today, growers can also use a fungicide like Priaxor (6 fl oz/A) at 45 days after planting and set the base for a strong leaf spot program with only one fungicide application in the first six weeks after planting.

The most important changes in our early season fungicide programs over the past decade have been to include control measures for soilborne diseases, particularly for white mold. Historically in Georgia, peanut farmers waited until approximately 60 days after planting to apply fungicides like Folicur and Abound to protect their crop from white mold and *Rhizoctonia* limb rot. Today, many growers are beginning their “white mold” program earlier. Though the “60 days after planting” timing remains start of what I call the “BACKBONE” of the white mold program, there are three reasons why growers may take steps to protect their crop earlier. First, research in recent years has shown that white mold can become established earlier in the season, sometimes well before a significant foliar canopy is established. While this may not normally occur, especially in well-rotated field, it does occur more often when the early season is unusually warm. Second, we now have fungicides like Proline and Elatus which are marketed for and proven to be effective in management of early-season white mold situations. Lastly, tebuconazole is so inexpensive these days that many growers see that including it with early-season leaf spot applications does not increase cost and may help in establishing the most robust white mold program.

I have three final suggestions in deploying the “best” early season program for disease control in the peanut crop. First, don’t be late. Timeliness is a key factor in the success of a disease management program. Based on Peanut Rx and disease risk, not all programs need to start at 30 days after planting. But it is important to know when to start. It is hard to play “catch-up” with diseases. Second, use Peanut Rx to determine risk – risk based on all factors to include variety, rotation, and planting date. In higher risk fields, don’t be afraid to spend money on a more effective program if it is needed. Lastly, growers should not feel pressured to use the most expensive program, to include number of applications and timings of applications, if your disease risk does not justify it. I firmly believe that a good fungicide program is a good insurance policy. But over-spending on that policy with small chance for a positive return may not be the best use of your money.

## **Too Many Complaints May Result in Dicamba Ban**

Lynne Hayes, Growing America, Tuesday, June 20, 2017

From the moment it hit the market, manufacturers, the EPA, weed scientists and others have stressed that dicamba is an effective product if it is used exactly per label directions. Unfortunately, too many farmers aren't taking that strong directive seriously enough, and the drift-prone pesticide has been at the center of great controversy in Missouri and Arkansas.

Over 100 dicamba drift complaints were lodged over a six-month period alone last year in Missouri resulting in criminal investigations, and the state led the nation in 2016 with more than 200 complaints total. Then in late fall, a dicamba dispute ended in murder when Mike Wallace, a Northeast Arkansas cotton, soybean and corn farmer was shot to death at the Missouri-Arkansas border allegedly "due to a physical confrontation that escalated regarding the spraying of the controversial herbicide."

Arkansas and dicamba made headlines again earlier this month when drift from the pesticide ruined more than 100 acres at an Arkansas agricultural research station plot, where conditions are tightly controlled.

### **Ban Recommended**

On Friday, in the wake of more than 85 new complaints of dicamba misuse brought to the Arkansas Agriculture Department, an Arkansas regulatory committee made up of ag businesspeople and farmers took strong action, voting unanimously to recommend that an emergency ban of the controversial pesticide be put in place immediately. Currently the only dicamba product legally allowed in Arkansas is sold under the brand name "Engenia" by BASF. "I hate that it's come to this, but we have to do our jobs," committee member Dennie Stokes, a representative from the Arkansas Agricultural Aviation Association and operator of the Stokes Flying Service, a crop dusting company, told Arkansas public radio station, UALR. The recommendation was handed to Governor Asa Hutchinson, who said the final decision on the ban was up to the Arkansas Plant Board, the governing body that reviews complaints and determines whether regulations were violated.

Dicamba problems escalated last year after Monsanto released soybean and cottonseeds that had been genetically altered to resist the pesticide. The timing was unfortunate though. The new seeds were available, however, the newer less drift-prone formulations were not. What followed were hundreds of reports of damage and three lawsuits against pesticide makers.

### **Is Following the Label Enough?**

Scientists and farmers are at an impasse as to whether simply saying "the label is the law" is the solution. Speaking at the 2017 Ohio AgriBusiness Association (OABA) annual meeting recently, Chris Weed of KOVA of Ohio, Chairman of the OABA Custom Application Task Force, told guests that abiding by the label instructions is not up for interpretation. "If you do that with this technology, we won't keep it," Weed said. "We need to do better with this than we did with glyphosate. Let's be better stewards at this and follow the label exactly. If we don't use this product by the label, this technology will be taken away from us. And right now, there isn't really anything else in the pipeline to replace it."

Nathan Donley, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity says the problem is deeper than following instructions. "What we're seeing in Arkansas is proof of what we all already knew — that this dangerous, drift-prone pesticide is not safe to use," said Donley. "Assurances from pesticide makers that new dicamba products and tighter application regulations would end the drift problems that damaged hundreds of thousands of acres simply ignored reality. This dicamba crisis is only the latest evidence that dumping more pesticides on the landscape is a road to nowhere. And it's only going to get worse — Monsanto predicts that annual dicamba use on soybeans and cotton will jump from less than 1 million pounds just a few years ago to more than 25 million over the next three to four years."

Illinois farmer, Dave Opperman, believes farmers can be responsible with their dicamba use. "It's a valuable tool, but you need to respect it and use it correctly," said Opperman. "This whole system has a lot of similarities to 20 years ago, when Roundup came on the scene. We had to educate ourselves. We have to revisit good stewardship practices, know what your neighbors planted, know the wind speeds and follow the label."

Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture, believes there's no easy answer and that livelihoods are at stake. "It's certainly a very difficult situation, a very complex situation. When you're talking to PhD's and asking them their thoughts and recommendations and they say 'I don't have a good answer,' you know it's complicated. You know it's complex," said Ward to regulatory committee members on Friday. "We've got guys out there that need the technologies and have flat out told us, 'if I don't have these new technologies, I can't do anything in the field, I've got to let it go.'"

## **Keeping Your Financial Records Secure**

By Lorna Saboe-Wounded Head, South Dakota State University Extension  
Drivers Online, May 30, 2017

When a family emergency or disaster occurs, having quick access to important financial documents is essential. These documents include banking information, insurance cards and policies, wills and power of attorney documents, household inventory, and birth and marriage records. This article will address what are the important financial records, where to keep financial records secure, how long to keep records, and how to create a Grab and Go box.

### **What are important financial records?**

- Household papers – birth certificates, marriage certificates, divorce documents, wills, power of attorney documents
- Ownership documents – deeds, mortgage documents, investment documents, car titles
- Contracts – work related and property related
- Insurance policy numbers, credit card and bank account numbers, passwords

### **Where to securely keep financial records?**

Wallet or Purse – the place to keep documents that may be needed on a regular or immediate basis. The following should be kept in your wallet or purse.

- Driver's license or identification card
- One or two credit cards
- Health insurance or Medicare or Medicaid card, medical information
- Passport and/or citizenship documents

Home Filing System – can be file drawers, file boxes, or a CD or USB drive. Keep the documents updated and destroy documents that are no longer needed. Consider these categories.

- Current files – monthly bank and credit card statements, bills to pay
- Permanent files – Documents to keep indefinitely (insurance policies, ownership documents, etc.)
- Dead storage files – files that are not needed but you want to keep

Safe Deposit Box – used for documents that are difficult or impossible to replace. Consider using a fireproof, waterproof, and burglar proof product. Remember that for a safe deposit box at a financial institution, only the person listed on the account will have access.

## How long to keep records?

- Temporarily Items awaiting action (bills).
- One year Documents with a limited life (household budget, bank statements, insurance policies).
- Multiple Years Records for proof of payments or transactions, tax returns (3-6 years or longer), title of car until sold, receipts for home improvements until house is sold, deeds until property is sold or transferred.
- Indefinitely Payment or original records that do not change (birth certificates, marriage license).
- Record Location List Keep a list of where records are kept. It is a good practice to keep one copy of the list in home files, one copy in a safe, and share with a trusted family member where the list is kept.

## Creating a 'grab-and-go' box

A Grab and Go Box is a file that contains important documents that may be needed in an emergency or disaster, such as a flood, fire or another natural disaster. Having a Grab and Go Box will help a family rebuild if records are destroyed and provide access to important family information.

Items that should be included in a Grab and Go Box are:

- Prescriptions for both medical and eyeglasses
- Insurance policies and cards
- Copy of the front and back of credit cards so you have the contact information for the company
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Immunization records
- Tax forms from the past two years
- A household inventory
- Copy of a will and other estate planning documents
- Copies of birth certificates, marriage license, and property deeds/titles

## Storage

Store the box in an accessible location, such as near the front door. Make sure all family members know what records are in the box and where it is located. The container should be durable and waterproof.

When an emergency occurs, there isn't a lot of time to think about anything other than the immediate situation and keeping your family safe. Taking time now to organize your financial, property, and family documents and creating a Grab and Go Box will ease the stress and anxiety that is experienced during the situation.

### Interesting Trivia Facts

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.