



UGA extension

Ag Notes | Webster County and Stewart County | June 2016

Dates to Remember

Monday, June 13
Cotton Scout School
Tifton

Thursday, July 14
Sunbelt Ag Expo
Field Day
Moultrie

Saturday, October 15
Webster County 4-H
Fall Carnival

As Scheduled
One on one pesticide
trainings

Georgia Pesticide Waste Clean Day Event 2016

The Georgia Department of Agriculture is proud to announce it has secured limited funding for a one day Georgia Clean Day Pesticide Waste Collection Day. The event will be held in Laurens County at the Southern Pine Ag Expo, 575 Southern Pines Rd., Dublin, Ga. 31021 on June 29, 2016, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Georgia Clean Day is a program that gives everyone an opportunity to discard old, unusable, or cancelled pesticides to a hazardous waste contractor for disposal. Pesticides in leaking containers or disposed of improperly may cause environmental damage by contaminating water supplies or harming people and wildlife. Some pesticides that have been used in the past are now in need of proper disposal. Participation in the Clean Day Program remains free of charge to all private and commercial applicators with the understanding that the event is designed / intended for farmers, lawn care, golf courses, and pest control companies. The Georgia Department of Agriculture will be requiring pre-registration for the event. For more information about the event, please contact Laurens County Extension Office at 478-272-2277, visit our website: <http://agr.georgia.gov/georgia-clean-day.aspx> or contact Rick Hayes coordinator for the event at ricky.hayes@agr.georgia.gov (Office: 404-656-4958 Ext 4113, Cell: 404-535-1614). You can also contact us here at the Webster County Extension Office at 229-828-2325 for more information or necessary forms.

Plant Diseases – Southern Corn Rust and Asian Soybean Rust

By Dr. Bob Kemerait, *Extension Plant Pathologist*

Southern Corn Rust – 5 points to consider after the first detection and diagnosis of southern corn rust (*Puccinia polysora*) in Georgia this year in Seminole County.

1. Southern corn rust is the most important disease affecting corn in Georgia.
2. Southern corn rust was found today in a very small amount in Seminole County on corn at the R2/blister stage (older than most corn in the state).
3. The disease can spread rapidly in storms and also with irrigation. Conditions last week were favorable for development and spread.
4. I have recommended that growers hold off spraying until we find rust. Now that we have found it, I have enough respect for the disease to say that growers in the southwestern part of the state whose corn has reached (or is about to reach) tassel growth stage an application of fungicide to protect the crop. Growers in other areas removed from extreme SW Georgia should monitor the spread of the disease. Some may want to make fungicide application either as a 1) safeguard or because 2) they are already making a trip across the field to spray something else.
5. If northern corn leaf blight is not a problem in a field, then growers have many fungicide options, to include tebuconazole to manage rust. For longer protective windows or where NCLB is also a problem, growers should apply strobilurin or fungicides that include some combination of strobilurins, triazoles, and SDHI active ingredients.

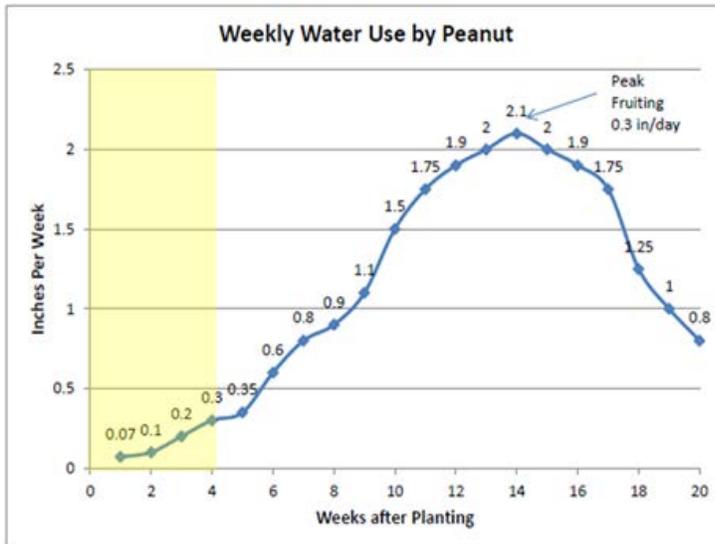
Asian Soybean Rust – As of today, Asian soybean rust has now been found in small amounts on KUDZU in Miller, Baker, and Grady Counties.

We can assume that soybean rust is present in low amounts throughout SW Georgia.

Water Use of Peanut by Week

From the 2016 PeanutUpdate

The graph below is a water use curve developed in Georgia years ago, which follows crop growth as a function of weeks after planting. The total estimated water requirement based on this crop growth curve is 23 inches.



Cotton Irrigation Schedule

From the 2016 Cotton Production Guide

In the past, irrigation of cotton prior to blooming was initiated when plants began to wilt or exhibited stress by mid-day. Recent research has indicated that once cotton begins to wilt, it has already been under physiological stress for some time and yield potential has been lost. Prior to bloom cotton will utilize 0.75 to 1 inch of water per week, which is most important during squaring (7-leaf stage to first bloom). Thus, under hot and dry early season conditions to optimize yield potential the crop should be irrigated at this amount prior to the signs of stress. It should also be recognized however, that abundant moisture magnifies vegetative growth problems when excessive nitrogen is available and/or insect control is insufficient. After first bloom, irrigate as needed to supply the quantities of water listed in Table 1. Rain gauges should be used to measure the water received from rain and the amount supplied by irrigation.

Table 1. Cotton Irrigation Schedule Suggested for High Yields

Crop Stage	Inches/Week	Inches/Day
Week beginning at 1st bloom	1	0.15
2nd week after 1st bloom	1.5	0.22
3rd week after 1st bloom	2	0.30
4th week after 1st bloom	2	0.30
5th week after 1st bloom	1.5	0.22
6th week after 1st bloom	1.5	0.22
7th week and beyond	1	0.15

Recall of Gold Metal Brand Flour

You may have heard in the news of the recall of certain Gold Medal brand flour, see the following information from CDC with their recommendations for consumers and restaurants.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2016/o121-06-16/index.html>

To date, there have been 38 cases in 20 states resulting in 10 hospitalizations. Of 21 victims, 16 reported that they or someone in their household used flour in the week before they became ill. Of 22 victims, nine reported eating or tasting raw homemade dough or batter before becoming ill. A dozen of 22 victims reported using Gold Medal brand flour. Three victims reported eating or playing with raw dough at restaurants, according to the CDC.

CDC Recommendations for Consumers and Restaurants:

- Do not eat raw dough or batter, whether made from recalled flour or any other flour. Flour or other ingredients used to make raw dough or batter might be contaminated.
- Consumers should bake items made with raw dough or batter before eating them. Do not taste raw dough or batter.
- Restaurants and retailers should not serve raw dough to customers or allow children and other guests to play with raw dough.

Contact the Extension Office

Dr. Laura A. Griffeth
County Extension Agent
229.828.2325 (Phone)
lgriffet@uga.edu

General Information
Webster County Extension Office
P.O. Box 89
Preston, GA 31824
229.828.2325 (Phone)
229.828.5901 (Fax)
uge4307@uga.edu



COTTON MARKETING NEWS

Volume 14, No. 8

June 3, 2016

Sponsored by

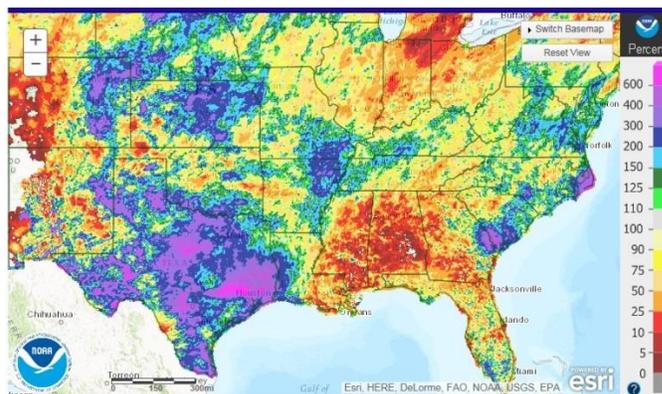
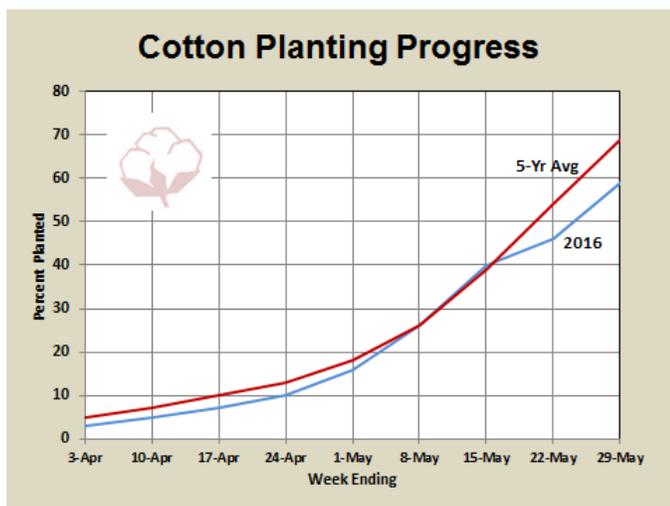


A Watchful Summer Lies Ahead

The 64-cent area (Dec16 futures prices) seems to be the limit that this market is willing to go at this point. Additional positive market factors could take us to 66 cents—but 64 cents has been tested twice over the past month or so and the market shows no ability or reason quite yet to push higher.



As we are now nearing the end of planting season and looking ahead over the summer months, factors that will impact prices include crop conditions, China’s reserve sales, and global cotton use or demand. For the grower, the challenge will be if and when to take price protection and, if so, how to do it. Just looking at the Dec16 chart, we can see potential for prices to fall to the 56 to 60 cent area under negative outlook scenarios.



After having caught up, planting is again running behind normal. As of May 29, planting was 10 percentage points behind average for that date. Texas (56% of expected US acres) was 15 points behind normal; North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia (6% of expected acres) were an average 13 points behind. Georgia (12% of expected US acres) was just slightly behind normal.

Rainfall over the past two weeks has been well below normal for most of the cotton area in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama; well above normal for the some areas of the Carolinas and Virginia which has slowed planting but growers are getting caught up; and above normal for most of Texas which has also slowed planting. A large area of the Mid-South has also been above normal on rainfall but planting has been on schedule.

Chinas government reserve sales now (as of June 2) total an estimated 2.75 million bales (equivalent 480-lb bales)—30% of the targeted total of 9.3 million bales through August. This consist of approximately 1.3 million bales (47%) imported cotton and 1.45 million bales (53%) of China’s own cotton.

The proportion of sales consisting of imported cotton has declined. This is because the volume of imported cotton offered for sale has dwindled to almost nothing. One report suggests that sales of imported cotton from reserve would be limited to 300,000 metric tons—the equivalent of 1.31 million 480-lb bales.

Of the 2.75 million bales sold—74% has been bought by spinners, 24% by “local traders”, and 2% by “international traders”.

As these sales proceed further, if the limit has been reached of imported cotton, sales will be determined in part by the quality of and demand for domestic cotton in reserve and prices will respond accordingly.

Don Shurley

William Don Shurley, University of Georgia
229-386-3512 / donshur@uga.edu

A Farmer Asked the President About Over Regulation

Georgia Cotton Commission, June 3, 2016

PBS recently hosted a town hall meeting with President Obama in Elkhart, Indiana. The first question from the audience was from a local 5th generation fruit and vegetable grower who ask “at what point are we over regulated, if not now?” Go to following link to see the whole video and the President’s response (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iO9OtuBzrk>).

Not surprisingly, this farmer’s question has garnered little attention from the national media or even the ag media. Many ag media outlets have reported in the past about specific regulations that farmers must face but this is the first time (to our knowledge) that any American farmer has asked that question directly to the President in a public setting. The President’s response was probably not what most growers wanted to hear, but given the current regulatory environment in American agriculture, it was probably what the average grower expected to hear. Below is a quick summary of the current regulatory environment faced by Georgia cotton farmers.

1. Extremely long deregulation periods. Twenty years ago when the first Bt and Roundup Ready cotton was introduced, a typical product or technology could be deregulated within two or three years of its introduction. Dicamba/2,4-D cotton is in its sixth year of regulatory study and it is still not fully deregulated.
2. EPA pulling pesticide labels because of questionable data. The EPA is tasked with registering and reviewing the current registrations for crop protection products. While the EPA has some very good scientists, and usually only makes decisions based on sound science, there have been numerous cases recently where real science seemed to take a back seat and decisions were made based on questionable studies or data.
3. Waters of the US (WOTUS). The WOTUS ruling to redefine what constitutes as a “waters of the United States” and is subject to the regulations under the Clean Water Act has been a very contentious issue. The EPA/Corp of Engineer ruling spells out very clearly what it defines as a “waters of the United States” and clearly has the intention to regulate more private waterways. In short, basically any water that flows on your property that might flow off of your property could potentially be regulated. Or if your property has water on it and is adjacent to other waters, then it could also be regulated. Nearly every ag group in the country has complained this is an overreach of the federal government’s power.
4. Using pollinators to effectively ban products. Pollinators are very important to American agriculture and many farmers work hand-in-hand with beekeepers to the benefit of both parties. Unfortunately, it is increasingly common for insecticide labels to say “do not spray when crop is blooming” or similar language to the same effect. Since cotton is indeterminate and will bloom for multiple weeks throughout the growing season, this effectively bans many products from being used by growers.
5. Worker Protection Standards (WPS). The new WPS ruling, if followed exactly, could cause an increase in costs to the grower. This is another very long and complicated ruling like WOTUS, but the gist of it is that growers will be required to spend much more time and money each year training their employees on proper pesticide use. Growers already are required to do this but the new regulations require more training.
6. Actively Engaged ruling. USDA was tasked in the 2014 Farm Bill with coming up with a definition for determining who is currently “actively engaged” in farming to determine that farmer’s eligibility to participate in government programs. This has been a contentious issue for many years because those outside of agriculture think that you have to drive a tractor 10 hours a day to be considered a farmer. Only a few very astute ag policy people can explain all of the ins and outs of this new rule but for the most part family farms, if they are of direct lineal descent, are exempt. This may not seem like a problem until you realize that two brothers who farm are exempt from this statute until their sons join the family farm. Now the sons of the brothers (cousins) would not be a farm consisting of only lineal descendants and therefore would have to figure out where they fall under this actively engaged rule which has several different tiers of how farms are structured and who qualifies as a manager.

These are just a few things that Georgia cotton farmers are dealing with regarding regulation.

What's this growth in my pecan trees?

By: Dr. Laura A. Griffeth, County Extension Agent, Webster County and Stewart County

How many of you have seen these kinds of things growing on your pecan leaves and stems? Is it a disease? Is it a tumor? Or is it something from outer space? The actual answer is none of the above. This wart-like growth found on pecan trees this year is caused by pecan phylloxera, and it's actually an insect.

The insects themselves are rarely seen and around the size of an aphid or pin-head size. The stem mothers hatch from over-wintering eggs just after budbreak, usually in April, and crawl to the expanding leaves where they settle down to begin feeding. They begin laying eggs inside the protection of the galls in mid-April. As the eggs hatch and the resulting phylloxera begin to feed, the gall enlarges. Usually in mid-May, the now-matured phylloxera emerge from the gall. Some of these may crawl to another spot on a leaf and produces a second generation of galls. There appear to be 2 species of phylloxera that infect the leaves—one, called Pecan leaf phylloxera, seems to prefer immature nursery and orchard trees. The other, called Southern pecan leaf phylloxera, prefers mature trees. In any case, the resulting damage will be the same.



While not very appealing to the eye, leaf phylloxera galls are usually of relatively minor economic importance unless infestations are severe. However, stem phylloxera attack foliage, shoots, and even the fruit of pecans and can be much more damaging. Usually they are seen in the peduncle (the short stem bearing the nuts), at the tip of the shoot, or in the nuts themselves. Heavy infestations can cause significant damage to the nut crop, and the accompanying weakened shoots reduce tree vitality and may reduce the following year's production as well.

Once you see the galls on the tree, it is too late to do anything about the current year's infestation. Control measures in commercial orchards must be taken at or just after budbreak. At present, there are no effective methods for control in a yard-tree situation, although some individuals will spray a dormant oil on the trunks and limbs during the dormant season to try to reduce the number of eggs. Thorough coverage of the entire tree is very important and is extremely difficult in a yard tree location unless you have a bucket truck or air sprayer. You should also keep the tree from being stressed by following proper fertilization and irrigation procedures.

While pecan phylloxera is much more widespread this year, it is not always this bad. So you don't need to cut your pecan trees down yet! If you have questions about this subject or other agricultural topics, please give me a call at the Webster County Extension Office at 229-828-2325 or your local County Extension Office.

Watering Guidelines for Homeowners

By: Laura Griffeth, County Extension Coordinator, Webster County

Now is the time of year when I start to get a lot of the questions from homeowners about their flowers or vegetables gardens. Some ask what this bug is or why are my leaves changing colors and falling off. Most county agents start asking questions about the way you treated the crop – planting date, fertilizers, and chemical treatments. However, a lot of times the answer is as simple as using proper watering techniques.

How many of you water your flowers, vegetables, or lawn every day or every other day? I'd be willing to bet a lot of you do. You know who you are. This is the worst possible way to water. Spraying plants lightly every day leads to an extremely shallow root system that cannot find nutrients. Roots grow only where the soil is moist; they will not seek out moisture. I have even seen a yard with such a shallow root system that the roots sat on top of the ground. Instead, soak the soil to a depth of at least 6 to 8 inches to encourage roots to seek water and nutrients deep in the soil. With an extensive, deep root system, plants are better able to withstand dry periods. Most plants in the landscape, once they are established, can go days or even weeks without supplemental watering.

If your plants look wilted on a hot summer afternoon, that's normal. They will usually perk up overnight. If plants are wilted in the morning or are a grey-green color, don't wait – water. Lawns under stress have leaves that are a dull bluish green, leaf blades beginning to fold or roll, and footprints remaining after walking over the area. Begin watering the areas showing these symptoms.

The amount of water needed by an ornamental plant, vegetable, or lawn depends on the type of plant/grass, the soil type, the amount of existing moisture in the soil, and the time of year. In the absence of rainfall, a thorough soaking every four or five days on light, sandy soils and every seven to 10 days on heavy clay soils is a good general guide for irrigating vegetables. As a general rule for ornamental plants, 6 gallons of water per 10 square feet of bed area or canopy area will saturate most soils to a depth of about 12 inches. Because water moves readily within the plant, you do not need to water the entire root zone of ornamental plants. Twenty-five percent of the root area can absorb enough water for the entire ornamental plant. Lawns require enough water to soak the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches, or approximately 1 inch of water.

However, you cannot just time how long to leave a sprinkler on or move the sprinkler when the water runs off. Sometimes water runs off because the soil cannot absorb it fast enough. The only way to know how much water you are putting out is to test it. The test is as simple as opening a can. Put several open-top cans, like tuna or cat food, around the area where you are watering. Then start watering and see how much water is in the cans after your typical watering. It might surprise you how little water you are putting out. This is also a good way to check the efficiency of an automatic irrigation system.

As much as plants like moisture, over-watering is harmful. Over-watering not only wastes water, it also prevents the roots from getting air.

Watering early in the morning or at night reduces evaporation loss and allows plant foliage to dry quickly after daybreak. Avoid watering at mid-day when evaporation losses are highest. Also, do not water when there is high wind; you can lose up to 50 percent of the water.

Soaker hoses and drip irrigation both conserve water by allowing water to soak in near the plant and not down the middle of the row. These two methods also allow the plant foliage to remain dry, which helps eliminate disease problems. Standing there with a hose on a tomato plant or hydrangea until the water runs off means you are applying the water too quickly, and the plant is not getting enough water.

These simple guidelines may not solve all your plant problems, but proper techniques will lead to healthier plants and lawns. If you have any questions about this topic or other topics, please contact your local county extension agent. I am available at the Webster County Extension Office at 828-2325.