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**IRWIN COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWS - Vol. 41 Wed. Nov. 9, 2022**

**Phillip Edwards Irwin County Extension Coordinator**

*In this issue: Recent/Upcoming, Cotton Defoliation, Hurricane Nicole and Today's Update, Sweet Taters, 2023 Annual Blueberry Update, Sign Up Now for 2023 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Beltwide Cotton Conference, Peanut Pod Cast, Georgia Peanut Farm Show, Critical Inputs for High Yield Wheat, Soil Testing*

**Recent/Upcoming**

*I've been out looking at multiple cotton fields and many of our fields are ready and waiting to be picked while others (planted behind small grains need more time) have some mature unopened bolls and almost the same amount that are not quite mature – see more below. We are also collecting 10-foot sections of defoliated cotton just in case - to reference with a 10-foot section after possible hurricane impact. We did this already this year with Ian and it was not needed – praying we don't need it this time either. UGA wheat recommended planting window Nov 15-Dec 1.*



*Agents Guy Hancock, Scott Carlson John Bennett assist Wyatt Pope, Terry Pope and I with the Irwin Co. 2022 Peanut Fungicide Trial*



*Dr. Camp Hand and Macie Wheeler pulling cotton samples for the UGA Microgin for testing including gin turnout, and grade sampling*



*Scene from fungicide trial harvest*



*Weighing cotton*



*I'm a Grandpa*



*A great Irwin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting – I hope you were able to visit*

## Cotton Defoliation Hand



*This cotton field is ready to go- upper bolls will open with boll opener*

*A general overview of the field*



*Late cotton half of bolls would open with boll opener the others not yet*

*Checking a cotton field last week with Dr. Camp Hand and Wyatt Pope*

As I look at the forecast for the next little bit, it looks as if this week will likely be the last significant week of DD60 accumulation in our cotton crop. Put simply, good growing conditions will be hard to come by starting next week. Highs in the 60s and lows in the 30s-40s will hamper much further advancement in our crop. We need to start really considering how much farther we are going to ride it out. Some of the last stuff we have on the station will get defoliated tomorrow, just to try to get the most bang for our buck out of our defoliant. FYI, this stuff was planted June 16 and I would guess is probably around 30 to 40% open. Although that is what I am doing here in Tifton, I would still evaluate fields and situations on a case by case basis. There were a few fields I looked at last week where I told the agent to let it go as long as they could possibly stand. This was where there may have been one boll open per plant and it had a pretty good boll load on it. As always, if you aren't sure and want to talk it out just give me a shout.

Looks like we may have to dodge some showers in the middle of the week. Keep that in mind as you are determining what to spray. We haven't had to deal with it much this year, but just as a reference Dropp has a rainfree period of 24 hrs. Mixed with other products it can be cut down to 12 hours, but that is still a long amount of time. I sent out a handy dandy two pager with the rainfree periods for some of our defoliant on it a while back, but if you need it again let me know.

As we get this late in the year, I get a little partial to Ginstar/Adios/Cutout products so we still have a little Dropp in the mix and it's still active. However, we have a lot of options still. Higher rates of Folex can be used, as well as our PPO products (Aim, ET, Sharpen, Reviton, etc.). Make sure if you're using a PPO product to read the label and utilize the appropriate surfactants.

### **Rates:**

12 to 16 oz Folex + 42 oz Prep – Folex can be subbed for any of the aforementioned PPO products – Add Dropp if there is significant growth in the top of the plant (I like to have it in the mix regardless)

8 oz Ginstar + 42 oz Prep – FYI, you can go with higher rates of Ginstar, but I would hold off on that until it gets pretty chilly

## **Nicole is Headed Our Way Knox**

This morning, Subtropical Storm Nicole is starting to transition to a regular tropical storm. It may briefly become a hurricane before it makes landfall along the central east Florida coast overnight Wednesday into Thursday morning. After that, the most likely path is first to the west, then the north before it moves back to the northeast through Georgia and the Carolinas.

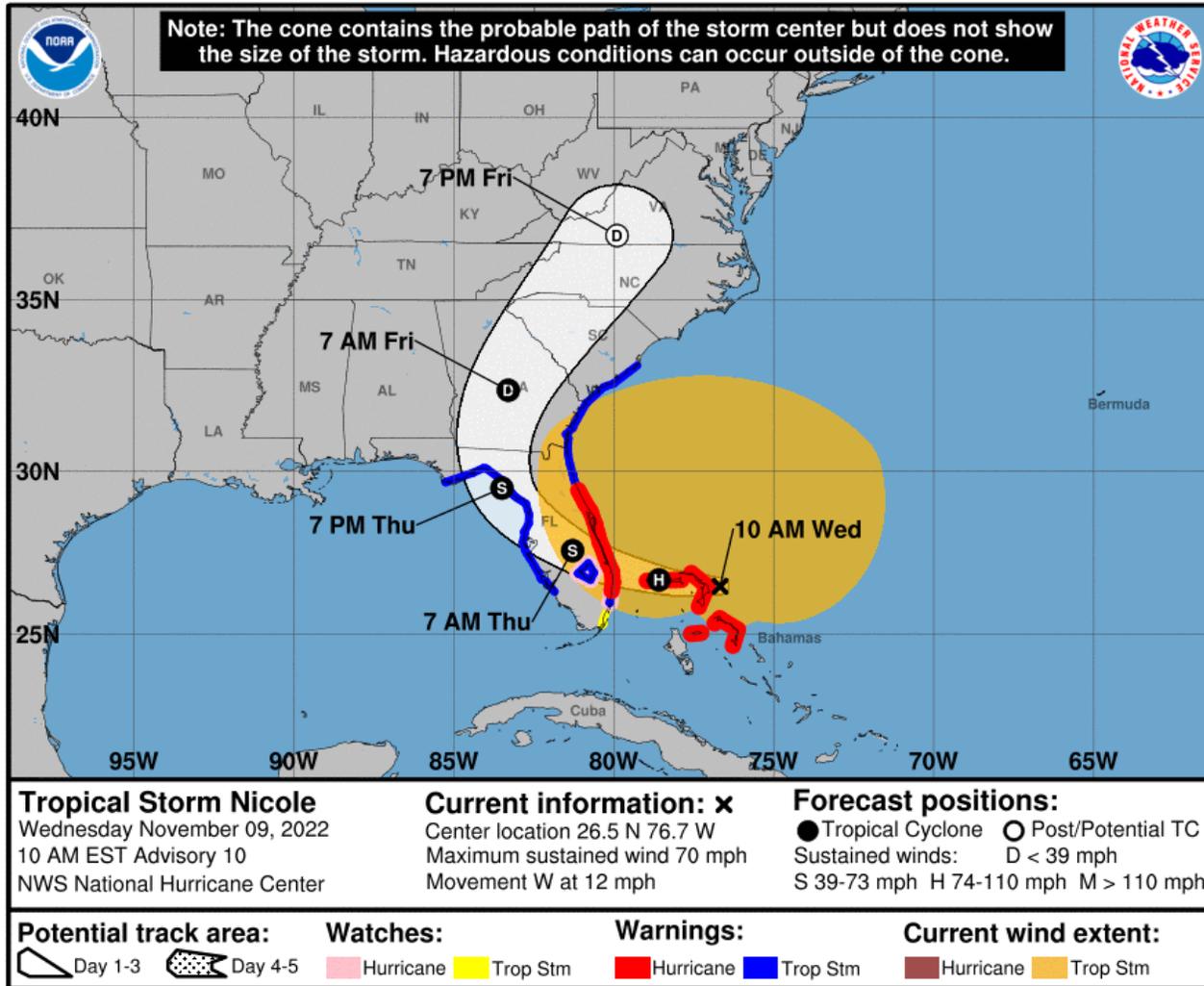
The models differ on some details, but it is virtually certain for the center of Nicole to pass over Georgia sometime on Friday, most likely in the southeastern part of the state. But don't focus on the center, since the tropical-storm-force wind field associated with Nicole is very large, about the size of Georgia and Florida combined as of this morning. It will contract somewhat as it becomes more tropical and then moves over land, but a lot of Georgia is going to experience strong gusty winds late this week. In this storm, the strongest winds are likely to be ahead and to the north of the center due to strong high pressure to our north. Fortunately, Nicole is no Michael, so we won't experience the extreme winds and damage we had with that storm but there will be some tree damage and

power outages. Heavy rain and a few tornadoes are a possibility along with the gusty winds, especially to the right of the storm's center.

The strong winds could start in far SE Georgia by Wednesday night but more likely be Thursday morning, so if you are in that part of the state, you should have preparations done before you go to bed on Wednesday night. The effects of the storm should move north through the state later on Thursday, and Thursday afternoon and Friday could be pretty miserable for a lot of the state, although at least it won't be cold. The storm will pick up speed during the day on Friday and most of the rain and wind should be out of the area by the end of the day. Areas near the coast could see several inches of rain and a lot of the rest of the state could receive up to an inch as the storm moves through.

Please continue to monitor the National Hurricane Center and your local NWS forecasts for specific information about your area. If you live along the coast, stay alert for coastal flooding along with all of the other tropical hazards we expect. There may continue to be some shifts in the predictions as the forecast models take in the latest weather data. I don't plan on sending out an email tomorrow unless there are big changes in the forecast. You already know what to do.

**Update to Above Information as of Nov 9, 2022      Knox**



Just a quick note to say that the latest forecast of Nicole's track has pushed it west again. That means the cone of the most likely track is now over SW Georgia, and since the likely intensity of Nicole has also increased again, that means most of the state is now likely to see impacts from the storm. Winds at our southeast most stations are already gusting over 20 mph and that will go up today as Nicole's large wind field starts to move over Florida and Georgia. Most of the state is now predicted to get 2-4 inches of rain, which may cause flooding in some locations in spite of the drought. All preparations for the storm should be rushed to completion today as the storm gets closer.

**Sweet Potatoes for Sale at our office from now up to Thanksgiving**

**Irwin County 4-H**  
107 West Fourth Street  
Ocilla, GA 31774  
229-468-7409

**SWEET POTATOES FOR SALE!!**

*\*All Proceeds go toward 4-H Programming*

**STOP BY TODAY**

**\$10 - 10 lb. bag**  
**\$30 - 40 lb. box**

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION**



Come and visit – many good reviews of these sweet potatoes this year -

### 2023 Annual Blueberry Update

UGA Bacon County Extension will be hosting the 2023 Annual Blueberry Update on Wednesday, January 4, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The event will be held at The Blueberry Warehouse, 130 GA Hwy 32 Bypass, Alma, GA 31510. DEADLINE TO REGISTER: January 2, 2023 - Cost: FREE --includes lunch. Register here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPYr-oLOVDOdY\\_-7NonZU\\_-6QB-sa15Z6MCYXcovi0kc3kXw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPYr-oLOVDOdY_-7NonZU_-6QB-sa15Z6MCYXcovi0kc3kXw/viewform)

### Sign Up Now for 2023 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference

Make plans to travel to Savannah, Georgia to attend the 2023 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference on January 5-8 and celebrate 21 years of the South's premier fruit and vegetable show! Find out more details about the conference at <https://seregionalconference.org/>. Registration information at <https://seregionalconference.org/registration-3/>

#### SCHEDULE

##### Thursday Jan 5, 2023

7:30 AM  
Registration Open  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Produce Safety Alliance  
Grower Training Course  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Bridging the GAPS:  
Approaches for Treating  
Irrigation Water On-Farm  
10:00 AM  
GFVGA Board of  
Directors Meeting  
10:30 AM to 5:00 PM  
SE Regional Educational  
Session

12:00 PM

Lunch  
5:00 PM  
GFVGA Annual Business  
Meeting

##### Friday Jan 6, 2023

7:00 AM  
Registration Open  
9:00 AM  
SE Regional Trade Show  
Opens  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
SE Regional Educational  
Sessions  
12:00 PM  
Lunch  
4:45 PM  
Welcome Reception

5:45 PM

Live Auction  
6:15 PM  
Trade Show Closes  
Evening  
Dinner on Your Own  
**Saturday Jan 7, 2023**  
8:00 AM  
Awards Breakfast  
8:00 AM  
Registration Open  
9:00 AM  
SE Regional Trade Show  
Opens  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
SE Regional Educational  
Sessions  
12:00 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM  
Silent Auction Closes  
2:30 PM  
Trade Show Closes  
5:30 PM  
Reception by the River  
**Sunday Jan 8, 2023**  
8:00 AM  
Worship Service  
8:30 AM  
Industry Roundtable  
Discussion  
10:30 AM  
Conference Adjourns!

### 2023 Beltwide Cotton Conference

The National Cotton Council and its cooperating partners welcome all to the 2023 Beltwide Cotton Conferences January 10 through 12 (Tuesday through Thursday) at the New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA. Three days of individual reports, panel discussions, hands on workshops and seminars are designed to provide attendees with information they need to help producers make key cotton production/marketing-related decisions. A dynamic program, along with the opportunity to network with peers from across the Cotton Belt, separate this conference from all others in agriculture. This conference will be educational, as well as enjoyable. Come, learn and experience all the sites and attractions that New Orleans has to offer. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. The website for more information is <https://www.cotton.org/beltwide/>.

## Peanut Pod Cast

Here is the link to the latest Peanut Pod Cast. You should be able access all of the previous pod casts also.

Anchor: <https://anchor.fm/macie-wheeler1/episodes/Episode-5---October-Frost--Grade-and-Yield-Decline-e1pj4c6>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/3JSXq7ZTzhTVPUfUD8YxwR>

Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/all-about-the-pod/id1638194766>

## Georgia Peanut Farm Show

Make plans to attend the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Georgia Peanut Farm Show and Conference scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center in Tifton, Georgia. The one-day show is free and open to all farmers and industry representatives to attend. Visit with nearly 100 agribusinesses and organizations in the peanut and agricultural industry, earn private and commercial pesticide applicator credits, as well as learn about cutting-edge research and developments during the University of Georgia Peanut Production Seminar and industry-wide sponsored Peanut Seed Seminar. Farm Show chairman Rodney Dawson is looking forward to the 2023 show. “I encourage farmers to attend this one-day show in Tifton,” Dawson says. “The knowledge they will gain from industry representatives and seminars is an investment in the future of their farm.” The Georgia Peanut Commission, in cooperation with OneBlood, will host a blood drive from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19. At the close of Thursday, there will be nearly \$10,000 in door prizes presented to farmers, as well as a Grand Door Prize, vendor products, certificates and equipment. For more information on the show, contact the Georgia Peanut Commission office at 229-386-3470 or visit <https://gapeanuts.com/>.

## Critical Management Inputs for High Yield Wheat Production

Ethredge, Lee

### 1. Use deep tillage to disrupt hard pans.

Wheat responds well to deep tillage when hard pans are present in our soils, particularly sandy soils. Prepare soils for planting by first tilling with a V-ripper, chisel plow, paraplow or subsoiler. Firm the seed bed with a cultipacker or small, light disk to reduce deep ruts from planting. Till the soil only to a depth necessary to break the hard pan. Simple disking is not as effective as deep tillage but it is preferred over no-tilling wheat. No-till wheat can be productive (mostly on heavy, clayey soils) but the yields, in general, are 5 to 25 bushels per acre less than conventionally tilled wheat.

### 2. Plant high yielding, pest resistant, well adapted varieties.

Yield data for all the recommended varieties for Georgia are found in the current Georgia Wheat Production Guide or Georgia Small Grain Variety Performance Test Bulletin ([www.swvt.uga.edu](http://www.swvt.uga.edu)). Be sure to note each of the variety characteristics of the variety you choose such as vernalization, maturity, lodging resistance, pest resistance so as to manage each variety properly for highest yield.

**Check with your local county Extension office for the latest information on recommended varieties. While some may perform to satisfactory levels, others have characteristics that may be too difficult to overcome with good management.**

### 3. Plant the appropriate seeding rate for your planting method.

Wheat can be successfully established by either drilling or broadcasting the seed and incorporating into the soil to a shallow depth of 1 to 1.5 inches. In general, drilling wheat yields 7 to 8% more yield. If incorporation of broadcast seed is poor, then yield differences are even greater. In a drill, plant 22 to 25 seeds per row foot (7.5- inch drill width). This is equivalent to approximately 35- 40 seeds per square foot. Use 10 to 15% more seed when planting after the recommended planting window. When broadcasting the seed, calibrate the equipment to plant 40 seeds per square foot. If broadcasting, be careful in covering seed. Disk harrows can easily bury seed too deeply, and vertical tillage can leave seed on top of the ground. Field cultivators provide shallow incorporation and are more dependable in depth. When possible, always use high quality, certified seed and save a tag of each separate lot for good record keeping.

Remember, bin-run seed can present more of a problem with contamination, loss of germination and/or mix up in varieties. Also, be aware that fungicide seed treatments are helpful during warm, wet fall temperatures. See UGA pest control handbook for labeled treatments and rates.

### 4. Plant during your recommended planting period.

The recommended planting dates for Georgia are the seven days prior to and after the five-year average first frost day for your farm. Varieties with long vernalization requirements should be planted in the first seven to ten days prior to the first frost day. Extremely early varieties with short vernalization requirements must be planted in the very last days of the recommended window. These varieties will suffer winter injury if planted too early as they would enter the jointing phase (Zadoks GS 32) prior to the time that sub-freezing temperatures generally do not occur.

#### 5. Scout fields for early insect infestations and control potentially damaging insects.

Hessian fly and aphids are the two insects generally causing yield loss in the fall. Control insects by either planting resistant varieties and or using an approved insecticide. Protect wheat from Hessian fly by planting resistant varieties or treating seed either with Cruiser® (thiamethoxam), NipsIt Inside® (clothianidin) or a brand of imidacloprid. See the current Pest Control handbook for proper rates: <https://extension.uga.edu/content/dam/extension/programs-and-services/integrated-pest-management/documents/handbooks/2021-pmh-comm-chapters/SmallGrain.pdf>

These seed treatments are also effective against aphids. Aphids vector the Barley yellow dwarf virus and it is important to protect wheat from this virus. For both insects, scout wheat fields 25 to 35 days after emergence for the presence of either aphids or Hessian fly. Apply a foliar approved pyrethroid insecticide if either is present and no seed treatment has been used. Again, scout just prior to topdressing. If aphids are present, then combine insecticides with the nitrogen fertilizer to prevent spring infestations. Thresholds and rates are listed in the Pest Control handbook and Wheat Production Guide: <https://grains.caes.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-subsite/grains/docs/wheat/2020-2021-Wheat-Production-Guide.pdf>

Control aphids when there are:

2 per row foot in the seedling stage, or

6 per row foot when plants are 6-10 inches

2 per stem at stem elongation 5 per flag leaf at boot stage

10 per head including flag

Do not treat in the soft dough stage.

#### 6. Control weeds early to prevent yield loss. (PLEASE READ THE LABELS)

Fields should be free of weeds, especially ryegrass and radish at time of planting. Then control ryegrass, wild radish, wild turnips, onions, garlic, henbit, chickweed, and vetch early (usually around Christmas) for maximum weed control efficiency and high yield. Waiting to control these weeds till the spring causes considerable yield loss due to lost tillers and reduced herbicide effectiveness. Scout wheat 21 to 28 days after emergence. Note any weed infestations. Control broadleaf weeds when weeds are small (i.e. 2 to 3 inch wild radish, mustard). Products such as Quelex 0.2 WG or Harmony Extra with TotalSol® are preferred due to their effectiveness and a large window of safe application; however, these herbicides often miss radish larger than 3 inches. For larger radish, these herbicides should be mixed with MCPA and applied at the appropriate wheat stage of growth. Do not apply 2, 4-D on wheat that is not fully tillered or injury will occur. Also, do not apply 2,4-D to wheat beyond the first hollow stem phase or injury will occur.

Control non-resistant ryegrass once plants emerge but before the first tiller for maximum control. Products such as Axial Bold.0.685EC®, Osprey 4.5 WDG® and PowerFlex 13.13 HL WDG® are effective. Osprey and PowerFlex also have activity against small broadleaves. For residual control of ryegrass, Zidua 85 WG® provides the greatest opportunity if activated prior to ryegrass emergence and can be applied from spike through the 4 leaf wheat stage. For fields with ryegrass resistant to postemergence herbicides, additional steps are needed. Again, Zidua offers excellent ryegrass control if the herbicide is activated prior to the weed emerging. Axiom 68 WG is fair on ryegrass and is labeled and best used at the spike stage. Fierce 76 WDG is labeled for spike thru the 2-leaf stage. Do not apply preemerge or to broadcast seeded wheat due to varying plant emergence. Please read the label carefully on any chemical as to avoid any injury on your wheat. See the current Pest Control Handbook or Wheat Production Guide for specific remarks, rates and timing information.

#### 7. Soil test and apply all nutrients according to recommendations for high yield.

Wheat should be planted in soils that have a pH of 6.0 to 6.5. If fertilizing for the wheat crop only, apply all phosphorus and potassium in the fall during seed bed preparation according to soil test recommendations. Nitrogen should be used in the fall to encourage tiller production prior to the onset of winter. Tillers produced in the fall generally produce the most grain per unit area (**generally fall tillers account for 85% of the final yield**). It is important though, not to over-fertilize with nitrogen as it may cause excessive growth and result in winter injury. In general, apply N (based on the previous crop rotation) as follows:

Cotton: 35 to 40 lbs ac

Corn: 30 to 35 lbs ac

Fallow: 25 to 30 lbs ac

Soybeans: 15 to 20 lbs ac

Peanuts: 0 to 10 lbs ac

**NOTE: If using poultry litter, obtain a nutrient analysis so as to adjust the rate of application according to the nutrient content. In general, 2 tons per acre is sufficient for fall growth. Applying more may increase risk to excessive growth and winter injury.**

#### 8. Topdress wheat with nitrogen in a timely manner in late winter and early spring.

During the later days of January, begin counting tillers to determine the need for additional nitrogen applications for the proper tiller production. If tiller counts (a stem with at least three leaves) exceed 80 or more per square foot at Zadoks GS 25, then apply all remaining nitrogen at GS 30 (stem elongation). Usually this occurs during early to mid-February in the southern half of Georgia. In extreme N. Ga, stem elongation may not occur till early March.

If the tiller count is less than 80 per square foot, then apply 30 to 40 lbs of N per acre to encourage tiller production prior to the onset of stem elongation. Complete the topdressing prior to 1<sup>st</sup> node stage. Nitrogen rates will vary according to the soil type, variety lodging resistance, irrigation capability, previous crop, etc. In general, total N rates range from 100 lbs N per acre to 120 lbs N. Be sure to include sulfur with the nitrogen. Sulfur deficiencies occur when the ratio of nitrogen in a tissue test exceeds 18:1. Tank mix an approved pyrethroid if aphids are present to reduce the risk to the barley yellow dwarf virus. Supply 15 to 20 lbs of S per acre if soils are sandy.

#### 9. Scout fields for diseases.

Powdery mildew, stripe rust, leaf rust and leaf and glume blotch are diseases that can be controlled with an approved fungicide application. Begin scouting fields closely when the plant starts jointing reaches GS 32-37 (Feekes GS 7-8). In general, powdery mildew and stripe rust will likely appear first. If no disease is present by Heading GS 58 (Feekes 10.5) but expected then apply the proper rate of your fungicide choice to maintain the high yield potential and test weight. See the current Pest Control Handbook or Wheat Production Guide for rate and timing information.

Another disease that has become worse in the past few years, Fusarium Head Blight aka scab, can cause yield loss, low-test weights, low seed germination, and contamination of grain with mycotoxins. Yearly incidence is tied to weather during flowering. Fungicide sprays specific for scab are useful but timing is critical.

FHB is best recognized on emerged immature heads where part or the entire head appears prematurely bleached. Usually a pinkish/orange mycelium is present.

#### 10. Harvest as early as possible.

Soft red winter wheat easily sprouts when the grain is exposed to rainy conditions after maturity. Harvest the crop as soon as possible to avoid field losses and to maintain good quality grain. Dry the grain if harvesting above 15% moisture. Usually, wheat can be easily harvested between 16-18% moisture.

#### **Soil Testing – Now is A Good Time**

While you are in the field getting your crop harvested you have easy access to the entire field to pull samples. The field history is also fresh in your mind and those trouble spots can be identified and sampled separately. Now is a good time (the preferred time) of the year to take soil samples. Soil samples pulled now will show a truer reading than a sample in deep winter. Harvest is past the mid-point and for some nearing completion and our eyes will soon turn toward next year. The soil should be dry enough to till when sampling. The \$6 fee for commercial crops which drops to \$5 fee per sample if you go over 100 samples. We have soil bags and soil probes available for your use. We also can get you UGA soil test recommendations when you take grid samples on your farm.

On the soil bag, please fill out your name and address completely. You will also need to write the name of the crop you intend to plant. The examples listed below gives you an idea of what needs to appear on the soil sample bag. If you are sampling for pasture please indicate what type of pasture. If your sample is irrigated cotton please state your yield goal. If it is dry land cotton please also write this on the bag. If the sample is corn please indicate if it is dry land or irrigated. Most other crops, turf, fruits or ornamentals just need the actual name of the crop to be grown. We will help you when you arrive with your samples.

Below the crop line on the soil bag is the sample number line. Please write your samples in no more than three characters or digits. An example is A13, B12, 145. You may use letters and/or numbers just don't go over three characters or digits.

#### Sampling Instructions

When soil samples are submitted to the laboratory for analysis, reliable analytical results are necessary for making limestone and fertilizer recommendations. Any soil test results are no better than the sample. To get a representative sample follow these steps for sampling.

- Use a sample tube, auger, spade, trowel or other tool, which can take a thin vertical slice of soil to the desired depth.
- Take at least 15 to 20 cores of thin slices at random over the field. One sample should cover no more than 15 acres. Homeowner samples will need to represent the test area. We have informational pamphlets available for you. Place each core in a plastic bucket and mix the soil through.
- The area to be sampled should have been fertilized and limed uniformly in the past. When sampling avoid small areas where soil conditions are different. In these areas sample separately.
- Sample depth will vary depending on the crop. The following sampling depths are recommended.

Plowed Fields-----plow depth  
Orchards-----8-12 inches

No-tilled fields----4 inches  
Lawns-----4 inches

Pastures-----4-6 inches  
Gardens-----6 inches

*As always for more information contact your Irwin County Extension Office.*

*Thank You, God Bless You,  
Phillip Edwards - Irwin County Agent*



*The mention of trade names in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Georgia Extension Service, nor criticism of similar ones not mentioned.*

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