



Lee County Ag Newsletter

March 2021, Volume 21, Number 3

Acuron GT For Weed Control in Field Corn (Prostko)

Syngenta recently received registration for a new postemergence field corn herbicide sold under the trade name of Acuron® GT. Acuron® GT is very similar to Halex® GT but it contains an additional active ingredient (bicyclopyrone). Syngenta has several similar field corn herbicides in the market and I have summarized them in Table 1. I have only had the opportunity to evaluate Acuron® GT for 1 year (Figure 1) so I would encourage any interested GA growers to use it on a limited basis until I can get more data in 2021. A complete copy of the Acuron® GT label can be downloaded here: https://www.syngenta-us.com/current-label/acuron_gt.

Table 1. A comparison of Acuron, Acuron Flexi, Acuron GT, and Halex GT.

Trade Name	Active Ingredients (lbs/gal)				
	(WSSA MOA)				
	glyphosate	mesotrione	bicyclopyrone	S-metolachlor	atrazine
	(9)	(27)	(27)	(15)	(5)
Acuron	-	0.240	0.060	2.14	1.0
Acuron Flexi	-	0.320	0.080	2.86	-
Acuron GT	2.00	0.200	0.095	2.00	-
Halex GT	2.09	0.209	-	2.09	-

Figure 1. Acuron® GT - 2020



Crop Disease Notes (Bob Kemerait)

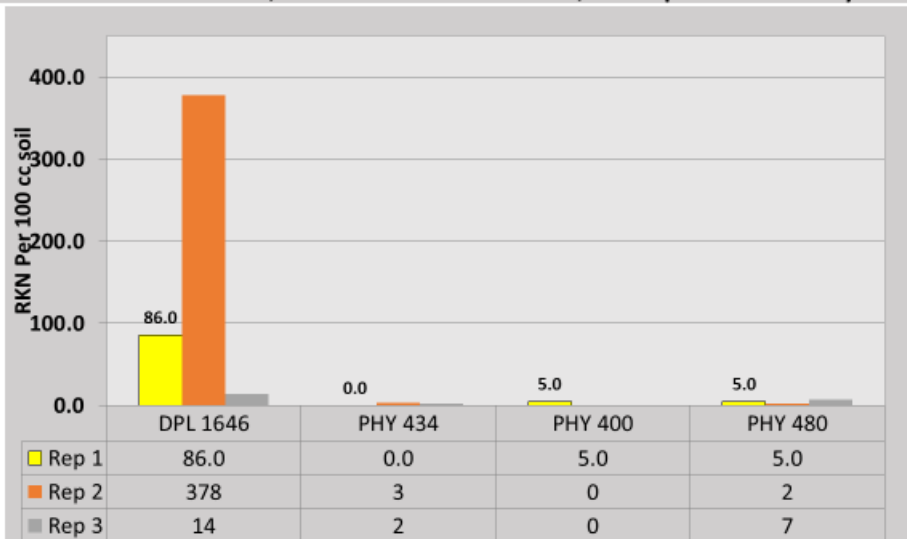
You know when Bob gets excited on 26 March, growers should "beware and be prepared".

1. See attachment from soil samples pulled in Colquitt County on 11 March 2021 with Jeremy Kichler (make sure you tell them I mentioned his name in that effort; he gets his feelings hurt...) . Jeremy had a cotton test in that field last year. The field is infested with southern root-knot nematodes. In the trials we had RKN-susceptible DP 1646, and also RKN-resistant PHY 400, PHY 480, and PHY 443 (RKN and REN resistant). We pulled soil samples (remember, Jeremy helped...) from each of the 3 reps for each variety. Stalks were still present in the field; many were still "alive" throughout the winter. **Note:** even on 11 March (winter still...) we were finding **elevated and beaucoup levels of southern root-knot nematodes where 1646 was planted** (in fact, nearly 4X our fall threshold levels in one plot!!!). Where RKN-resistant varieties were planted, we had none, or very few. **TAKE HOME POINTS:** 1) Resistant varieties help a grower with nematode management this season AND next season. 2) Our temperatures have NOT been severe enough in 2020-2021 winter to knock 'todes back enough, at least in southern Georgia. 3) Leaving stalks in the field that make it

through the winter ensures a FULL BUFFET for feeding the little B*%#&Ds out there. 4) All growers with cotton corn, soybeans, and peanuts going in to 2021 season should recognize from this slide the INCREASED THREAT of nematodes in 2021, 5) REMEMBER, growers get ONE really good chance to "punish" nematodes in a season and that is BEFORE the furrow is closed- once closed, decisions on variety, nematicide, rotation, and planting date are OVER. ONCE THE FURROW IS CLOSED- a grower (for the most part) will watch the rest of the Nematode Game from the sidelines..... don't be "that guy".

2. **But wait, there is more....** **NOTE:** thanks to funding from the Georgia Soybean Commission, we are already begun scouting for soybean rust on recently emerged kudzu. Three weeks ago there was none. Today young kudzu is busting out across southern Georgia, leaves up to the size of a half dollar (for you young agents who have never seen a half dollar, it is bigger than a quarter but smaller than a silver dollar). Never have we found soybean rust on such young, small leaves. Never, until today! **ASIAN SOYBEAN RUST HAS BEEN FOUND FROM KUDZU SAMPLES COLLECTED IN TELFAIR COUNTY ON 25 March.** New leaves, new spore, new threat. With rust already active on kudzu in 2021, i can assure you that soybean producers in Georgia on the Coastal Plain SHOULD plan on a fungicide program for 2021, possibly beginning as early as 1st bloom. More on that later as we get into the season.
3. From points 1 and 2- takeaway notes- A) if we have soybean rust NOW, could, I say could, also be a tough year for southern corn rust. What is BIG difference between southern corn rust and soybean rust? Kudzu helps soybean rust 'overwinter"; we don't have an alternative host for southern corn rust, so it will have to move back into Georgia. B) nematodes. don't forget the nematodes.....

Root knot Nematode Levels of 3 Nematode Resistant and 1 Non Resistant Varieties, March 2021, Packer Park Farm, Colquitt County



March 29 Notes on Planting Cotton and Seedling Disease (Dr. Bob Kemeraid)

I have caught a lot of grief over the past 6 months in trying to predict what our "climate" will be, so I am a bit gun-shy these days. However, I have checked the Weather Channel app 13 times this morning and each time it is still calling for cooler morning temperatures.

As a reminder, to minimize risk to losses to seedling diseases, cotton growers "jonesing" to get seed in the ground, and we all know there are a few of them, should let this week pass and start planting next week.

If someone simply MUST plant this week, I recommend extra attention to products to protect against seedling diseases.

Cool weather slows germination of the seeds and slows growth and development of the seedlings. This give fungal pathogens like *Rhizoctonia solani* the chance to cause significant damage to an emerging crop, But you already know that.

With my luck in forecasting the weather, it wil probably highs in the 90s and lows in the 70s this week, but I still wouldn't risk planting...

**Frustrated with Planting Technology Issues? These tips can help!
(Simerjeet Virk)**



Like any other precision ag technology, planting technology has its obvious advantages but it also comes with the frustrations that every grower hope they can avoid at all costs during the planting season. Even the growers with very little technology on their planting equipment can relate very well to this topic. In fact, every grower who uses technology can tell you about all the times when he wants to take every piece of technology off their planter, throw it away, and just run the planter as simple and plain it used to be before putting any technology on.

Trust me, I have been there many times as well and nothing is more frustrating than when you are ready to get out in the field to plant (or actually in the middle of the planting season) but the planter would not run, more likely due to an issue(s) with technology. This issue could be anything including GPS not working, seed monitor/display not powering up, display unable to detect control module, bad seed tube sensor, malfunctioned seed meter drive, unable to load seeding prescription map, and the list can go on and on depending on the amount of technology on a planter. For many growers every year, these technology issues end up being very costly and I am not talking about the dollars spent on fixing the issue here. In fact, in most of these situations, they are willing to pay someone extra or for a part at a ridiculous price if that person or part can fix the planter issue immediately. Actually, it is the valuable TIME that these technology frustrations cost them, which they would much rather spend planting than trying to get the planter going. And for that reason, there are many growers who prefer not to utilize any technology on their farm as dealing with such technology frustrations is not worth the time and effort for them, and I cannot blame them for their decision to not use technology at all.

There is no doubt that using planting technology (as a matter of fact using any ag technology) can be challenging and frustrating at times, but in my opinion the technology benefits certainly outweighs dealing with the challenges involved in its utilization. In case of planting technology, being able to visualize planter data (seed singulation, population, spacing quality, etc.) in real-time for each row-unit while planting definitely provides a clear picture of the planter performance along with opportunities to correct or improve it on-the-go. Without any technology, the only way to assess planter performance is by looking at the emerged stand and by that time it's already too late to make any adjustments as the seed has been planted and the furrow is already closed. Issues with planting technology are common and not completely avoidable so the best we can do is accept this fact and consider taking steps that can help avoid some of these issues as well as prepare us better to tackle the ones that may occur during the planting season.

Timely Technology Inspection: This is probably one of the most important things you can do to avoid any technology surprises, especially on the first day of planting. It is easy to skip technology while you are checking all other mechanical parts to get your planter ready for field operation. Do not wait until the day of planting to get the planter out and expect everything to work perfectly. There are lot of wires, connections, hardware, and firmware on that planter so plan to perform a thorough technology inspection at least a week (if possible earlier) before you intend to plant. During this inspection, make sure to check the GPS, seed monitor, seed meter drives, seed tube sensors, and other planter technology (hydraulic downforce etc.) for proper functioning by performing both static and in-field tests. Check all the harnesses for any cracks or damage, and make sure to take care of any minor issues before they become big enough to stop you right in the middle of the field. Additionally, this will also be a good time to check for GPS correction subscription, firmware updates, and unlocks for

prescriptive seeding applications. Spending little time and effort upfront on a thorough technology inspection can save you a lot of time and frustration in the planting season.

Good Customer Support: Unlike purchasing some other agricultural equipment or implements, investing in ag technology is much more than just buying a product that fit your needs and works for you. In ag technology market, good customer support from a technology company, dealer or service provider is valued lot more than the product itself. So, your decision to invest in a certain planting technology should not just consider who has the greatest product in the market but must also consider who can provide a good customer support – in-person or over the phone – when you actually need it. Remember, a great product does not always guarantee a good customer support but a great customer service can save you from lot of frustration and help make an ok product work great for you. For the technology either you already have on your planter or plans to invest in, you should find out answers to the following questions: Is there a local support person available in your area or will you get customer support over the phone? How readily this person will be available in the season? Does this company/dealer offer any annual or monthly maintenance plan(s) for the technology? What are the fees associated with in-person customer support if any? Specific answers to these questions can vary from one company to another but the usually the best support in ag tech is when you have a local company/dealer person who is always within a reachable distance or a phone call away and willing to help you anytime (including nights and weekends) to help resolve your technology issue and get you back in the field. Find contact information for this person (company or dealer) for your planting technology, if possible try to meet him personally before beginning of the season, and save his phone number. Having good customer support and knowing the right person can help make dealing with technology frustrations a lot easier.

Take Pictures and Notes: If there is any technology on your planter, you probably already have encountered some issues during planting in the past or recently. While some of these issues on planting equipment are pretty common and occur more often, some of them are unique and only occur once in a while (may be once in every two to three years or even more). As many equipment and technology issues a grower deals with every year on his farm, it is hard to precisely remember all the steps required to fix each one of them. Something that I have learned from working with ag technology and have seen few growers do this as well is taking pictures and notes on the technology issues, and most importantly the troubleshooting steps that either you or the technician/consultant/dealer followed to fix that issue. Of course, fixing some of these issues require technical expertise or specialized tools for which you cannot do much about, but just being more attentive and learning about what exactly causes some of the common issues and how to fix them will save you some major annoyance and money in the season. Generally, a good practice is to take before and after pictures with detailed notes on each issue that occurred during the planting season and keep that information where it can be easily retrieved and accessible. You would at least want to keep notes on all the planter and technology settings on your seed

monitor/display at the beginning of the planting season. There will be days that these pictures and notes will come in handy (more often than you would think) and will again save you a lot of time and frustration in the field.

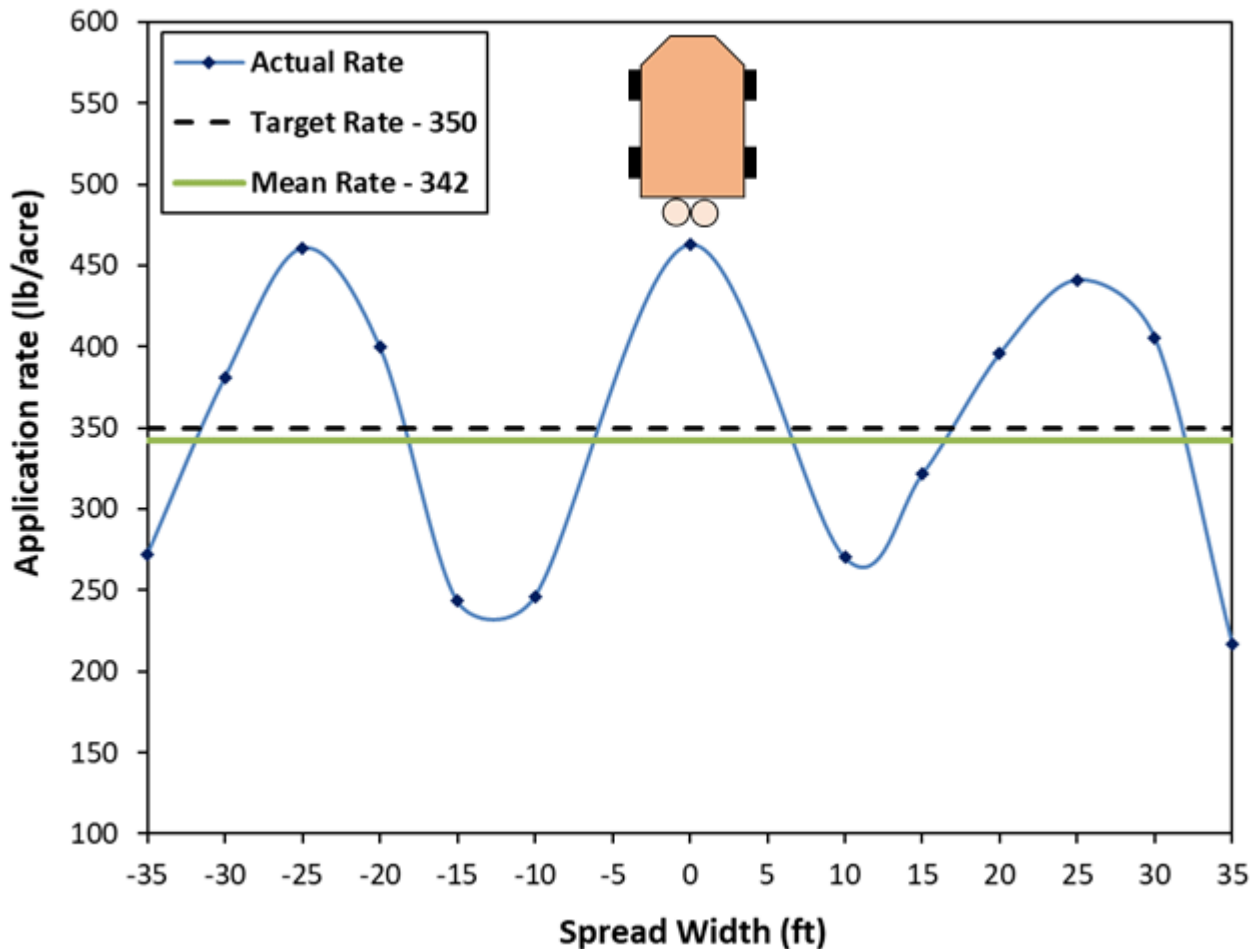
Use Internet: Smartphones and internet are becoming more common among the growers these days. For some growers, internet especially social media (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) is usually the first place to go when they run into a technology or similar issue. For those who do not use internet, you would be surprised to know how much information is out there on technology setup, calibration, or fixing technology-related issues. In my opinion, it is a great resource as other growers probably have already experienced such technology issues recently or in the past and have shared information (sometimes very detailed instructions) on how to resolve these issues. One advice for both new and experienced internet users, try not to get overwhelmed by all the information on the internet but find two to three trusted websites which can provide good reliable information on setup and troubleshooting issues specific to your planting technology. Some technology companies or dealers also have their own website or YouTube channel where they have very useful information in a blog or video on troubleshooting technology issues. Use these resources appropriately to your advantage to save yourself from technology frustrations.

There may be some other ways too that growers are utilizing to make technology work for them and avoid any major issues during the planting season so talk to other growers (both new and experienced technology users) to learn about their ways of dealing with technology issues and frustrations. And please remember especially you are new to using technology, it is going to take some time and patience to get use to technology and reap the benefits so hang on in there and don't give up too early!!

Two Important Settings that Needs your Attention on Spinner-Disc Spreaders (Simerjeet Virk)

Spinner-disc spreaders are common application equipment for broadcasting lime and dry fertilizer. Both pull-behind and large self-propelled spreaders are widely used by growers and co-ops in Georgia. One of the most common issues we always hear about them is the lack of uniform fertilizer distribution, which is hard to miss when you see streaked fields or pastures. Generally, most applicators do a good job of selecting the proper settings (gate height and conveyor speed through press wheel or rate controller) to apply the target application rate but more often overlook the settings that affects fertilizer distribution across the swath. The graph below illustrates that as an example where the mean rate (342 lbs/ac) for this fertilizer application is pretty close to the target application rate (350 lbs/ac) but the fertilizer distribution uniformity across the (70 feet) spread width is considerably poor (showed as solid blue line). This

is also called a typical “W” pattern with a heavy center directly behind the spreader and two peaks towards the end of the swath.



Typical

“W” shaped single-pass spread pattern for a spinner-disc fertilizer spreader.

So, two spreader settings that needs your attention and can be adjusted to correct fertilizer distribution issues:

Flow Divider Position: A flow divider is located at the end of the conveyor chain/belt and above the spinner-discs. Its function is to split the material evenly and control the material placement (location) onto the spinner-discs. The fertilizer distribution across the spread width is most sensitive to the position of the flow divider as a small change in flow divider position can result in a significant change in spread pattern i.e. a small change can make an undesirable spread pattern desirable or vice-versa. The flow divider position depends on the material being spread. The recommended setting in the spreader operator’s manual is usually a good place to start with but a spread pattern testing is highly recommended to adjust and determine the flow divider position that provides a more uniform fertilizer distribution behind the spreader.



Spinner Speed: Speed (rotations per minute) of the spinner-discs controls how far the fertilizer is being spread out (single pass spread width), which is used to determine the effective spread width (the actual application width). Low to medium spinner-disc speeds (600 – 700 rpm) are generally recommended for more uniform fertilizer distribution across the swath. However, application at higher spinner-disc speeds are also common among the applicators to spread wider and cover more acres. This results in non-uniform distribution as fertilizer properties (particle size and weight) impacts how it is being distributed behind the spreader i.e. larger and heavier particles travel farther whereas the smaller and light particles are mostly distributed close to or directly behind the spreader. This is one of the primary reasons for fertilizer segregation during broadcast application of blended fertilizers. Additionally, larger but fragile fertilizer particles breaks easily on contact with spinner-discs rotating at higher speeds and create lot of fines directly behind the spreader. Most of these issues (related to uneven distribution and segregation) can be easily corrected by operating spinner-discs at recommended lower speeds. A quick calibration procedure to verify the actual spinner-disc speed (using a handheld tach) and the desired effective spread width (through spread pattern testing) is again advised to attain a more uniform fertilizer distribution.



While consideration to other spreader settings and spreader operation is also important for uniform fertilizer application, in my opinion these two settings are on the top of the list to check and make any necessary adjustments.

Posted in [Machinery Systems](#). This entry was tagged [Fertilizer Distribution](#), [Spinner-Disc Spreaders](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

Previous: [Post-Harvest Considerations for Yield Monitors and Data Management](#)

Next: [Frustrated with Planting Technology Issues? These tips can help!](#)

2021 Wheat Disease and Fungicide Update (Corey Bryant and Alfredo Martinez-Espinoza)

1. **Foliar Diseases** – Recent weather patterns in the southern US can contribute to the dispersal and establishment of wheat diseases. Critical wheat growth stages are quickly approaching; therefore, scouting of wheat fields should commence if not already occurring or possibly be increased if already occurring. Protecting the flag leaf from foliar diseases is critically important for yield preservation. The decision whether or not to apply a fungicide should be made by carefully weighing variety planted, yield potential, and if current environmental conditions are conducive for disease development at each specific site. Current Extension recommendations are to apply a fungicide anytime leaf rust is found in a field and when other foliar diseases (powdery mildew, stagonospora leaf/glume blotch, tan spot) are progressing up the plant and reach two leaves below the flag leaf. Below are the fungicides available for control of foliar diseases.
 - a. **Triazoles** – metconazole (Caramba), propiconazole (Tilt, Popimax), prothioconazole (Proline), prothioconazole + tebuconazole (Prosaro), and tebuconazole containing products (Folicur, others)
 - b. **Strobilurins** – azoxystrobin (Quadris, Equation, Satori), fluxastrobin (Evito), picoxystrobin (Approach), pyraclostrobin (Headline)
 - c. **Mixed mode of action** – benzoyindiflupyr + propiconazole + azoxystrobin (Trivapro), cyproconazole + picoxystrobin (Approach Prima), fluoxapyroxad + pyraclostrobin (Priaxor), fluoxapyroxad +

pyraclostrobin + propiconazole (Nexicor), flutriafol + fluoxastrobin (Fortix, Preemptor), flutriafol + azoxystrobin (Topguard), pydiflumetofen + propiconazole (Miravis Ace), propiconazole + azoxystrobin (Quilt, QuiltXcel), propiconazole + trifloxystrobin (Stratego), prothioconazole + trifloxystrobin (Stratego YLD, Delaro 325), pyraclostrobin + metconazole (Twinline), tebuconazole + trifloxystrobin (Absolute, Absolute Maxx), and tebuconazole + azoxystrobin (Custodia)

A complete list of products, rates, timings, restrictions, etc. can be found on pages 48-51 of the 2020-2021 Wheat Production Guide and pages 364-365 of the 2021 Georgia Pest Management Guide. **The section in the Wheat Production Guide contains a wheat fungicide efficacy table developed by the North Central Extension and Research Committee (NCERA-184).**

2. **Fusarium Head Blight/Head Scab** – Fusarium Head Blight requires humid/wet weather coinciding with wheat at flowering growth stages for infection to occur. There are no symptoms or signs to scout for, therefore, we rely on weather conditions and predictions. The FHB risk tool <http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu> is now live and available. The platform has been re-designed with new features added so it is important to familiarize yourself with the content again. The application window for chemical control is very tight and must occur during anthesis/flowering. The following are fungicides recommended for control of FHB:
 - a. metconazole (Caramba), propiconazole (Tilt), prothioconazole (Proline), tebuconazole (Folicur), prothioconazole + tebuconazole (Prosaro), pydiflumetofen + propiconazole (Miravis Ace)

More information on FHB can be found in the extension publication C1066 <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C1066> or on page 50 of the 2020-2021 Wheat Production Guide and page 366 of the Georgia Pest Management Handbook.

3. **Small Grain Disease Physical Samples** – All small grain disease samples should be sent to the Plant Disease Clinic in Athens, GA. For the proper address and sample preparation check <http://plantpath.caes.uga.edu/extension/clinic.html>.

Peanut Achievement Club (Doug Collins)

If you have a peanut yield that you would like to enter in the Peanut Achievement Club Contest, please let me know as soon as possible.

UPW Trainings (Doug Collins)

If you need Using Pesticides Wisely Training in order to be able to legally apply auxin herbicides (dicamba and 2,4-D) to tolerant crops, and have not been able to participate in the online trainings, please let me know and we will try to make arrangements to have you trained.

Ambrosia Beetles Are Active (Dr. Lenny Wells)

Be on the lookout for Asian Ambrosia beetle in young pecan tree plantings. We have had reports coming in from various locations throughout the state, including Cook County, the Ft. Valley area, and sites in Eastern

Georgia as well. As temperatures begin to warm up this week (this was written in early March) the activity could pick up as well.



Asian ambrosia beetle damage on
young pecan tree

Due to excessive rain in February many fields are very wet and planting was delayed. These late planted trees, especially in wet areas, are the most likely to be affected. They will still be under considerable transplant shock and will be the most attractive to beetles.

If you have had problems with this pest before or if you have newly planted trees which have been planted in the last 2-3 weeks, it is likely a good idea to begin spraying the trunks of young (1-3 yr old) trees with a pyrethroid like Bifenthrin. If trees are covered with tubes to protect the trunk, remove the tubes before spraying or spray down into the tube, being sure to coat the trunk as best you can.

2021 Budbreak and Pecan Production Meeting Presentations (Dr. Lenny Wells)



Budbreak on 'Cape Fear' pecan March 20, 2021-Crisp County, GA

Budbreak has arrived for south Georgia pecans. I noticed a few Cape Fear and Elliot trees beginning to break bud this weekend. I am sure over the next week or two we will see this progress more and the orchards will soon take on that lime green hue of spring to kick off the new growing season.

As most of you are aware, the UGA pecan team conducted our county production meetings virtually this year by Zoom. Thank you to all of those who participated. Your pesticide credit hours from the meetings have been sent to the GA Dept of Ag as of last week. If you missed the meetings or would like to go back and hear the presentations they are now archived on YouTube and are available at the links below:

[Lenny Wells—Pecan Management](#)

[Jason Brock—Pecan Disease Update](#)

[Angel Acebes—Pecan Insect Update](#)

[Andrew Sawyer—Young Pecan Tree Management, SE GA](#)

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