

AGRONOMY

UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

NOTES

September, 2003

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 5	Row Crop Field Day - Jay Research Farm
Feb. 24-25, 2004	FL Weed Science Society Annual Meeting, Ft. Pierce
May 27, 2004	Corn Silage Field Day, Citra

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Planting Date for Corn and Grain Sorghum

Both corn and grain sorghum require at least 90 days of good growing conditions to get to grain production even on short season hybrids. Therefore, grain planted in August seldom matures as well as would be expected. Insects are generally not as severe from August plantings because numbers usually go down in September. The last date of good yields of grain and silage in our planting date trials have normally been in late July.

DLW

Residual Fertility

Several growers had planned on planting cotton and had N applied before planting from various sources. Some of these fields did not get planted. Heavy soils will often hold as much as 60 pounds of available N in the rooting zone. However, if rainfall and wet conditions were what kept growers from planting there is a good likelihood that N was leached out. Results from cotton trials on relatively heavy soils at NFREC, Quincy, showed that sidedressed N moved through the soil fairly rapidly over a 5 week period after N was applied to below the 12 inch soil depth, and probably out of the root zone. Don't expect much residual N being around for fall small grain crops or winter grazing.

DLW

Prepare to Defoliate Cotton

There are many defoliant on the market with different modes of action. The effectiveness of any of the defoliant is dependant upon status of the crop (N fertility status, soil water content, weather, and many other factors). Usually 60 % open boll is considered the time of maturity when yields will not be reduced if defoliant and boll openers are applied. Information on timing, rates, and materials can be found at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG188>.

DLW

Getting Ready for Winter

Now is the time to purchase seed and start selecting and preparing ground for planting cool-season forages. The soon to be released fact sheet "Fall Forage Update 2003" will have a listing and discussion of recommended varieties and planting practices. We are going into the fall with plenty of soil moisture and there is prediction of more rain to come. This should make it easier than usual to get ryegrass and other cool season forages established. This may be the cool-season when we will have excellent growing conditions. If you are planting rye (the small grain) don't get in too big of a hurry if the temperature stays high. Wait until the weather changes and we get several cool nights before planting. This usually occurs after Oct. 15 in northern Florida and after Nov. 01 in southern Florida. Rye is susceptible to certain seedling diseases when planted in hot weather. Oats can be planted earlier than other small grains and ryegrass, since it is less susceptible to seedling diseases.

CGC

Excessive Peanut Vine Growth

There may be some fields of 2003 peanuts where vine growth became excessive due to the rainy weather. Excessive weed growth may have also become a problem. In such cases, it may be difficult to follow the rows during digging, which increases the loss of pods. It may also be difficult to properly invert the vines for optimum field drying. Thus it may be necessary to consider mowing the top third of the vines before digging. Mowing is not generally desirable, but may be necessary in some cases. If the decision is made to mow, be sure the blades of the mower are sharp so that stripping of the pods from the vines during mowing is kept to a minimum. Raise the mower high enough so that only about a third of the vines are mowed. Lower mowing heights can increase the stripping of pods from the vines. The peanuts can then be dug when the mowed portion has wilted enough so as not to interfere with efficient digging.

EBW

Late-Season Yellowing of Peanuts

Some causes of late-season yellowing of peanut vines are obvious. Areas of water-saturated soils may yellow due to the flooding, and also peanut vines generally develop a slightly yellow color as they approach maturity, especially if there is a heavy pod load. Other yellowing may be indicative of nematode or disease problems. In general, yellowing due to nematodes will be in spots as the more heavily damaged plants show the most yellowing. An examination of the roots and pods of affected plants for galling will help confirm whether or not nematodes are the primary cause of the yellowing. Late season infection of tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) may also cause the vines to yellow. The degree of infection determines if only a few scattered plants are yellow or if large areas of the field turn yellow. Yellowing of vines due to TSWV is more pronounced than the yellowing caused by pod maturity. At this late date of infection, stunting of plants and the typical ring-spot lesion may not be obvious, and yellowing may be the only symptom available for field diagnosis. Other diseases may also contribute to vine yellowing, as they attack the plants already weakened by TSWV.

EBW

Tobacco Auction System

While tobacco auctions are no longer held in Florida, there has been a change in the way they are conducted. As a result of a farmer lawsuit, the auctioneer's chant and verbal bids by the buyers have been replaced by computers. Each buyer is issued a hand-held computer that shows the opening or asking price which declines until a buyer punches the key indicating a bid. There are no tie bids because the first bid wins. There are four auction markets in Georgia, and others

in the Carolinas and Virginia. Practically all of Florida's tobacco is sold by contract, as is about 75-80 percent of the rest of the US flue-cured crop.

EBW

Tobacco Quota Buyout Proposals

Prior to the congressional August recess, Senator McConnell of Kentucky introduced a bill that would provide for the buyout of tobacco quota. It is expected that this bill may progress in the Senate, possibly being combined with another bill that would provide for FDA regulation of tobacco. When Congress reconvenes in September, activity on this bill, as well as possible bills from the House of Representatives, will be likely. It is expected that the tobacco buyout proposals will be up for voting before the end of the year.

EBW

Tobacco Sales Report

Through August, flue-cured tobacco auctions in the US have sold about 26 million pounds (about 24% of that designated) of tobacco for an average price of \$1.69 per pound. Over 64% of the tobacco has been placed under loan. Contract sales have amounted to 186 million pounds (43% of designations) for an average price of almost \$1.83 per pound. The two Florida contract delivery points have received almost 6 million pounds (over 60% of designations) and the season average price is now almost \$1.83. The Florida delivery stations will probably complete operations in September, but it will be late October before all auctions and contract centers close for the year.

EBW

August Crop Report

The USDA's National Statistics Service reported the following estimates of 2003 crop production:

Crop	Florida		United States	
	Harvested Acres (x1000)	Yield per acre	Harvested Acres (x1000)	Yield per acre
Peanuts	107	2700 lb	1277	3102 lb
Cotton, all	99	621 lb	12,302	667 lb
Tobacco, all	4	2550 lb	414	2031 lb
Sugarcane	440	36.5 ton	995	34.7 ton

Other crops are not estimated for Florida, but corn in the United States is estimated to be up 12% over 2002. The estimated yield is almost 140 bushels per acre, which, if realized, would be a record, as would be the total production. Soybean production is estimated to be 5% above 2002, while winter wheat production is expected to be up 42% over the previous year.

EBW

Publications

The following publications have been recently **UPDATED** and are available through EDIS. A PDF file for each publication is also available.

SS-AGR-80 Skunkvine (*Paederia foetida*)

CIR-1084 Energy from Crops: Production and Management of Biomass/Energy Crops on Phosphatic Clay in Central Florida

SS-AGR-159 Perennial Peanut - Source List of Planting Material (Rhizomes) and Hay

The use of trade names does not constitute a guarantee or warrant of products named and does not signify approval to the exclusion of similar products.

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