# AGRONOMY NOTES

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

September 2004

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**COTTON**
Choosing Harvest Aid Chemicals for Cotton Defoliation . . . . . 2

**FORAGE**
Fall Forage Update . . . . . 2

**PEANUTS**
Weed Shifts in Peanut . . . . . 2

**MISCELLANEOUS**
Soil Sample in the Fall of the Year . . . . . 3

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Larry Arrington, Interim Dean.

**Choosing Harvest Aid Chemicals for Cotton Defoliation**

Choosing harvest aid chemicals for cotton is right around the corner. Most growers use both a defoliant and boll opening material in a single application. Most applications are made about 10 days to two weeks in advance of harvest. Materials that work well in one year may not do as well in another year. Dry, cool weather results in slower activity of defoliants. One of the most important concerns to growers is the cost of defoliation and the effectiveness of the chemicals. Defoliation should occur when 60% of the bolls are open or when there are 4 nodes above the cracked boll. Another method is to cut into the large bolls at the top of the plant that you desire to harvest. If these bolls are hard to cut through and the fiber strings out during cutting, it is safe to defoliate.

DLW

**Fall Forage Update**

The 2004 Fall Forage Update is now available on EDIS at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AA266. One new rye variety AGS 104, one new oat variety Horizon 321, and one new ryegrass variety have been added to the list of recommended varieties.

CGC

**Weed Shifts in Peanut**

Cadre is an exceptional herbicide for peanuts. It provides excellent control of many commonly occurring weeds such as cocklebur, pigweeds, wild poinsettia and nutsedge. Not only will these weeds be controlled, but numerous other species will be controlled or suppressed from the foliar and/or soil residual activity of this herbicide. However, in fields that have received postemergence applications of Cadre for past few years, we are now seeing increasing populations of weeds that Cadre does not control. For example, species such as eclipta, carpetweed, tropic croton, and groundcherry, among others, are becoming more problematic for many producers. I believe one reason for this trend is that Cadre is used on over 90% of the peanut acres in Florida and other herbicides that once controlled these weeds are being excluded from the weed control program.

It may be useful to include other products into your weed management plan if you find yourself in this situation. For example, Ultra Blazer is particularly effective on many weed species that Cadre will not control. Many producers have opted to not use Ultra Blazer because it causes leaf burning on peanut and because it does not have the same soil activity as Cadre. However, Ultra Blazer, when used correctly, has not been shown to reduce peanut yield. Additionally, the new formulation in Ultra Blazer does not cause as much peanut injury as Blazer did.

Basagran and Ultra Blazer are not replacements for Cadre, but may be complimentary. If you are struggling with weeds that Cadre will not control, it may be helpful to review the 2004 Weed Management in Peanuts publication and see if other herbicides would be useful. Although Basagran and Ultra Blazer will not control every weed that is missed by Cadre, they may be able to fill in some of your weed control gaps.

JAF

**Soil Sample in the Fall of the Year**

Soil sampling for fertility and nematodes should be done after the summer crop. Plant nutrients can be determined for the next years' crop, and if lime is required it may be applied and have time to react before planting the crop the next year. Fields with high N use will become acid more quickly than those fields with no N or little N use. This process of becoming more acid is due to nitrification, which occurs when bacteria convert ammonium to nitrites and then to nitrates. This process results in the production of hydrogen ions. Soil pH is a measure of the hydrogen ion concentration in the soil and this determines the need for lime additions. Most crops grown in Florida gorw best at a pH of 5.5 to 6.5.

DLW

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.
Prepared by: J. M. Bennett, Chairman; C. G. Chambliss, Extension Agronomist; J.A. Ferrell, Extension Agronomist, G. E. MacDonald, Weed Researcher, M. B. Adjei, Forage Agronomist, E. B. Whitty, Extension Agronomist, D. L. Wright, Extension Agronomist.