

AGRONOMY

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NOTES

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 20th** - 2007 Equine Institute and Allied Trade Show, South Eastern Livestock Pavilion, Ocala, Marion County.
- October 4-5** - Deer & Turkey Short Course, NREC, Quincy, FL.
- October 19th** - Quail and Dove Management Short Course, Arcadia, FL.

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Fall Grasses (2007) - What to plant?

Winter grasses in the state cannot be recommended in a 'recipe' fashion as they don't grow in all places and all soil types. Winter grasses like cereal Rye adapt well to drier soils but others like ryegrass (cool-season grass, not a winter grain) require substantial moisture to grow properly. In North and North-central Florida ryegrass and most of the small grains are recommended. Recommendation for South Florida is almost exclusively Ryegrass because of the small window of cold temperatures; also temperature and disease pressure are too high to use any of the small grains for the mid-south and south Florida. Following are the recommend varieties for 2007 by maturity (early, medium, and late):

Rye:

Early: FL401 (for early grazing or use in blends), AGS 104.

Medium: Wrens 96, Wrens Abruzzi, Pennington Wintergraze 70, and Early Graze.

Late: Bates, Oklon.

Oat:

Medium: Horizon 270, Horizon 321, Horizon 474, SS76-40, and NK-Coker 227

Late: TAMO 406

Wheat: Recommended varieties are all grain types that may be used for forage.

Medium: AGS 2000 and Pioneer 26R61

Medium-late:USG 3592

Ryegrass:

Early: Gulf

Mid to late: Florlina, Surrey II, Jackson, TAM 90

Late: Jumbo, Prine, Big Daddy, Passeral plus

Yoana Newman and Ann Blount

Overseeding Winter Pastures

The small grains and winter forages in general can be planted on a prepared seedbed or they can be overseeded into warm-season pastures. If the decision is to overseed, your warm-season perennial pasture (bahiagrass, bermudagrass) needs to be grazed very short and disked lightly (barely scratching the soil) one or two months before planting time (usually after the first frost and a good rain). Light disking is recommended in order to open (without killing) the warm-season sod and favor germination of the cool-season seed. After light disking the area, planting should follow using a small-grain drill (use the large seed box for small grains, and the smaller box for your clovers and ryegrass). Rates for overseeding cereal grains (oats, rye, wheat) are usually 85-90 lbs/acre, which is in the lower end of the recommendations when planting on prepared seedbed; the recommended seeding depth for cereal grains is 1 to 1½ inch. When overseeding ryegrass, the recommended rate is 20-30 lbs and because ryegrass seed is very small, the recommended seeding depth is ¼ to ½ inch. Because of Florida sandy soil conditions, after overseeding drag the area and pack it,

pulling a roller behind, to conserve the moisture. Fertilization should be made following the soil test recommendations but usually one application is done at planting and two more throughout the season.

Yoana Newman

Boron Fertilization for Peanut

For many years, boron (B) has been recommended for peanut. However, many growers forget about it with no apparent problem. However, soil tests for B in peanuts are not very accurate so B should be applied in a couple of the early fungicide applications at rates of about ¼ lb/A for each application. It does not take a lot of B for peanuts since the crop will not take up a total of ½ lb for the entire crop. However, “hollow heart” of peanut seed can occur and symptoms have been bad enough to cause split stems in some year. Both, yield and grade can be increased with B applications. B deficiency is more common on sandy, droughty soils. Sources of B fertilizer are boric acid and sodium borate (Solubor). With recent rainfall in most peanut areas, peanuts appear to be 2-3 weeks later than normal due to stress from drought with many fields still pegging and filling pods. It will be very important to stay on schedule with fungicides to avoid problems with leaf spot.

David Wright

Manganese Deficiency in Peanut

Several fields of peanuts have shown manganese (Mn) deficiency this year. The peanut crop will have a golden cast across the field and usually occurs in areas that have a high pH and high calcium and magnesium levels. Critical plant levels are around 15 ppm during the bloom period. Deficiencies are most often found in the sandier fields that are influenced more by liming. However, deficiencies can be found

in any soil type with high pH levels. Most deficiencies will occur with a pH above 6.0 but have been observed with a pH as low as 5.8. If deficiencies do occur, apply Mn as a foliar application. Manganese sulfate is the form of Mn most often used. Chelated Mn often does not correct the deficiency for the season since it is usually around 5% Mn material and is applied at rates of 1-2 quarts/A. Manganese sulfate should be applied at rates of 5-10 lbs/A, and can be applied foliar which reacts more quickly than soil applications.

David Wright

Peanut Maturity

Determine proper maturity of peanuts by pod blasting, hull scrape or the shell out method. County extension faculty often assists in maturity determination or can recommend where help can be obtained. It is important to get the maturity right since one week either way of optimum maturity can mean a significant reduction in yield and grade. Generally, no difference has been noted in digging and harvesting strip-tilled and conventionally tilled peanuts. Adequate soil moisture is required to dig either properly. Growers who are new to strip-till often ask: 1) will the residue from the previous crop interfere with digging? and, 2) will there be more foreign material in the harvested peanuts? The answer to both is no. When peanuts are strip-tilled into cotton residue, stalks tend to decay slowly due to their high fiber content. However, with a cover crop on top of cotton stalks, no impediments to digging or harvesting have been noted due to rapid decay. Peanuts have been strip-till planted into bahiagrass that was killed in the fall or spring killed, as well as in corn, sorghum, cotton, and soybean residue, without any problem during digging and harvest. Generally, if the strip-till rig will plant into the residue without any problems, the peanut plow will not have a problem in digging. Dry weather can cause

a problem in digging both strip-till and conventionally planted peanuts. Actively growing weeds in the crop at digging and weather conditions cause more problems for both strip till and conventional planted peanuts than at planting due to knocking nuts off vines.

David Wright

Soybean Rust Spread in Florida

Soybean rust has been widespread in late August of 2005 and 2006. Rust is in several of the sentinel plots across North Florida this year. High humidity and rainfall hastens the spread and spore buildup. The dry weather that we have had this year has slowed down the epidemic. Most of the positive sites that had rust were not sporulating due to high temperatures so those nearby fields were not getting infected. Fungicides may be applied through R5 growth stage (seed are 1/8th inch long in pods on one of the four uppermost nodes) at the time of infection with good control if the disease is detected early. Fungicides can be applied with flat fan nozzles at 10-15 gal/A at 30 psi with very good control of the disease. Yield increases of near 30% were noted with two applications of fungicides applied at first bloom and either 2 or 3 weeks later. Fungicides applied after R6 stage (pods are filled with green seed at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem) are not expected to increase yields.

David Wright and Jim Marois

Watch for Palmer amaranth

Palmer amaranth has been a troublesome weed for many years in the west, but has only recently been introduced into Florida. Palmer amaranth is in the same family as redroot pigweed and can easily be misidentified as such. However, Palmer amaranth is an extremely aggressive weed

and much more troublesome than redroot pigweed. To illustrate, soil applied herbicides such as Prowl or Treflan that are quite effective on other pigweeds are quite weak on Palmer. It is common to achieve only 50 to 60 percent control Palmer with a preemergence application of Prowl whereas a similar application would provide approximately 90 percent control of redroot. Additionally, Palmer amaranth can grow over an inch per day and has been shown to produce as many as 500,000 seeds per plant. This is compared to much slower growth rates and 200,000 seeds with other pigweed species. This incredible seed production capacity has also led to the rapid development of resistance to several herbicides. There are Palmer amaranth biotypes that have been shown to be resistant to atrazine, Cadre (and similar compounds), Treflan/Prowl, and glyphosate.

Currently in Georgia, glyphosate and Cadre resistance has become widespread (some populations are resistant to glyphosate, others are resistant to Cadre, and some populations are resistant to both). Since the problem is close to our border, it is essential that we watch closely for this weed. The key factors for identifying Palmer amaranth are the long seed head and petioles. Review <http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/wfiles/W072.pdf> for a more detailed look at these factors.

Key points

1. If you see Palmer amaranth growing on your farm, physically remove that plant before it produces seed.
2. If you intend to employ a custom harvester, check to see if that picker has been in Georgia. If so, it will likely be contaminated with Palmer amaranth. Palmer seed is extremely small and virtually impossible to clean from a picker.

3. If you have Palmer amaranth, treat it early and often with herbicides. This weed germinates multiple times through out the growing season and can quickly overwhelm a field.
4. Palmer amaranth is nothing like redroot pigweed. It should be viewed and treated as the most aggressive and unforgiving weed in the Southeast.

Jason Ferrell

Wheat Planting Information

Since wheat prices are near \$6/bu and soybean prices above \$8/bu for 2008,

growers may be interested in planting wheat this fall followed by soybean. Over 150,000 acres of wheat were grown in North Florida in the 1980's and declined with prices and the expansion in cotton and peanut acreage. Choose wheat varieties carefully. Florida's small grain variety trial information along with that from Georgia can be found on the web at www.swvt.uga.edu . Those growers who plan on planting wheat should get the seed lined up since planting time is from early November for the longer season varieties to mid December for the shorter season varieties. Wheat should be planted at no more than 2 bu/A of good quality seed to obtain top yields.

David Wright

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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