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Preemergence Grass Control in Bermudagrass Pastures

Prowl H2O was labeled for preemergence grass control last season. Prowl is a highly effective herbicide on annual grasses such as crabgrass, goosegrass, Texas millet and crowfootgrass. However, Prowl H2O has no postemergence activity and must be in the soil prior to weed seed germination to be effective. Therefore, Prowl H20 should be applied in late-winter to early spring (depending on weather conditions and soil temperatures) prior to germination of annual grasses. Prowl H20 should be applied at rates of 3 to 4 quarts per acre. These rates are somewhat expensive, but should provide near season-long control of annual grasses. It must be noted that Prowl H20 will not control any perennial grasses, such as vaseygrass, johnsongrass, or bahiagrass, that is emerging from existing root stocks. It is only effective on grasses emerging from seed.
‘UF Tito’ and ‘UF Peace’ Two New Rhizoma Peanut Cultivars

These two cultivars have been in seed increase in the last two years and will be officially available in small quantities to spriggers this coming February at the Agronomy Forage Research Unit (AFRU) near Gainesville, Florida. They will also be available in containers (pots) at the Marianna Research station. These two cultivars bring to growers the ability to diversify their current monocultures of Florigraze rhizoma peanut. Most of the current planted acreage in the southern United States corresponds to Florigraze and these two new cultivars seemed to be highly resistant to the peanut stunt virus that has tested positive for Florigraze.

**UF Tito** is originally from Paraguay and named in honor of the late Dr. E.C. ‘Tito’ French, a UF pioneer in rhizoma peanut research and advocate of rhizoma peanut for the region. UF Tito was selected from approximately 100 plant introductions that were planted in the late 1980s; it resembles the plant type of ‘Florigraze’ and when compared to Florigraze it was identified as a cultivar with comparable high dry matter yields, but superior stand purity, and vigor.

**UF Peace** is also an introduction from Paraguay that was named after Mr. Caroll Peace, of Valdosta, GA, a producer and a long-time promoter of rhizoma peanut. UF Peace is also similar to ‘Florigraze’ in appearance and yield, and has rapid emergence and spread. Nevertheless, it seems to be less competitive with common bermudagrass weed than UF Tito.

Dry matter yield and nutritive value data is provided in the summary table and data is presented as averages over several years for Citra and Marianna locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dry Matter Yield</th>
<th>Crude Protein</th>
<th>Digestibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-year mean</td>
<td>Citra, FL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-yr mean</td>
<td>Marianna, FL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lb/acre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF Tito</td>
<td>10,430</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,540</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF Peace</td>
<td>10,130</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,050</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florigraze</td>
<td>8,050</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,770</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Pesticide Applicator Training DVDs Coming Soon

Practically all applicators of restricted use pesticides must successfully pass the Core exam in order to become certified prior to being issued a license by FDACS. The 50-question Core exam is based upon the contents of the study manual SM 1, “Applying Pesticides Correctly.” The recently-released full-color 180-page 7th edition is formatted into 9 chapters along with an appendix containing useful information for handlers of pesticides. The revised pesticide applicator category study manual, Aquatic Pest Control (SM 3), was also released during fall 2010. It serves as the basis for the contents of the 50-question Aquatic Pest Control category exam for certifying and licensing pesticide applicators.

To accommodate different adult learning styles, an alternative to the written manuals has been developed. DVDs containing audio-narration of each manual’s entire contents in an automated PowerPoint format is now available. The flexible format allows the learner to study the contents of each chapter at his/her own pace. The contents of each chapter are automatically self-run, but allow the learner to stop and start the presentation at any place to review key concepts. Each chapter concludes with interactive practice exam questions.

Both DVDs are priced at $25 apiece and may be obtained through the UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore by calling (352) 392-1764, toll-free (800) 226-1764, or online at www.ifasbooks.com.
Rotations

Rotations are one of the main ways to avoid pests, and increase yields of crops in rotation while minimizing pesticide use. Crop prices for all of the row crops are near historic highs. Cotton, corn, and soybeans are all at levels that profits can be made with average yields. Peanuts are sure to follow this trend to maintain the supply that is needed in the peanut industry. Growers should take advantage of this opportunity to grow crops that will enhance their normal rotations. Several growers are growing cotton again which is a good rotation for peanut, corn and soybean. Long term benefits can be gained with good rotation and it often costs very little to switch crops if prices are good.

Top Dress Small Grain

Small grain should normally be top dressed with N in late January to early February. One application of N is usually adequate on soils with a clay layer within the top 6 to 8 inches while splitting applications is advisable for soils with the clay layer 12” or deeper. Herbicides may be applied with N for weed control at the same time. Nitrogen sources should contain sulfur so that about 15 lbs/acre of S is applied between the time at planting and the top dress applications later in the season. If applications are split, the second application should be applied 3 to 4 weeks after the first and it should be not later than the first of March. Research conducted with different sources of N (19%, 28%, urea, and ammonium nitrate) had no differences in wheat yield as long as the N rate was similar along with other nutrients. Cooler than normal weather has slowed small grain growth but N should still be put out in this time frame to enhance tillering. Warm weather will result in fast growth and small grain head usually appear in the last days of March or the first week of April.

Calendar

To follow the link, press “Ctrl” and put cursor over link, and “click.”

Feb. 1-2 22nd Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium, Gainesville, FL
http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu/index.shtml

Feb. 6-8 Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS),
Corpus Christi, TX.
http://www.saasinc.org/2011-CorpusChristi/WelcomePg.asp
https://www.agronomy.org/membership/branches/southern

Mar. 30 47th Florida Dairy Production Conference, Gainesville, FL
http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu/index.shtml

May 4-6 60th Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course, Gainesville, FL
http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/short.shtml

Jul. 3-9 Caribbean Food Crops Society meeting, Two Mile Hill, St. Michael, Barbados,
http://www.cfcs2011barbados.org/