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2005 Corn Performance Tests

Edited by
Anton E. Coy, J. LaDon Day, and Paul A. Rose

The Season

The 2005 corn season was favorable for grain production with near normal summer temperatures and plentiful rainfall. A cool and wet second half of March delayed planting which resulted in the crop being later than average throughout the season. Normal or above rainfall throughout kept a majority of the crop in good to excellent condition all season although some areas experienced drought periods. Favorable temperatures and adequate moisture resulted in a very good crop state wide. Strong winds and heavy rains from hurricane Dennis the second week of July caused severe summer root lodging in some areas. Less than half of the crop had been harvested by September 1, compared with two thirds in the 5-year average. A dry September favored harvest completion.

Rust observed in June did not become a major problem. Southern corn leaf blight damaged susceptible hybrids in the late season. Stink bugs were damaging to yield and quality in some areas but corn earworm pressure was less than normal.

Rainfall during the season averaged from 4 inches below to 10 inches above long term averages at the corn variety test locations as listed below.

Growing Season Rainfall[1], 2005

Month	Blairsville	Calhoun[2]	Griffin	Midville	Plains	Tifton
	---------- inches ----------					
February	5.63	3.44	5.02	5.56	3.13	2.81
March	5.64	3.50	7.18	6.63	9.29	6.53
April	3.86	3.39	4.91	3.39	5.30	5.96
May	1.78	1.65	1.99	1.61	1.57	1.72
June	8.28	3.35	4.60	5.59	7.56	7.23
July	9.88	4.64	15.14	6.22	12.13	5.83
August	6.82	3.39	7.35	7.37	6.18	3.46
September	0.81	1.00	0.14	0.01	0.65	0.02
Total (8 mo)	42.70	24.36	46.33	36.38	45.81	33.56
*Normal (8 mo)**	38.78	38.04	35.42	32.79	34.48	34.01

1. Data submitted by Dr. G. Hoogenboom, Georgia Station, Griffin, GA.
2. Floyd County location.

* Based on 42-year average.

Maturity and harvest proceeded about two weeks behind 5-year average. Of the 260,000 planted acres (lowest on record), 230,000 were harvested for grain at an estimated 127 bushel/acre (fourth highest behind 134 in 2001) for a 29.2 million bushel crop or about 20 percent decrease from 2004.

Anton E. Coy is a senior agricultural specialist in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department at the Tifton Campus, Tifton, Georgia 317939-0748. J. LaDon Day is program coordinator of the statewide variety testing program and Paul A. Rose is a research professional II in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department, Griffin Campus, Griffin, Georgia 30223-1797.