

## 2007 Corn Performance Tests

Edited by  
 Anton E. Coy, J. LaDon Day, and John D. Gassett

### The Season

The 2007 corn season in Georgia saw the highest acreage of corn since 1998 and one of the driest summers statewide on record. Corn planting started and progressed ahead of normal in March but by early April only 22 percent of the state reported adequate planting moisture and some dryland corn was not planted. A rare Easter freeze damaged some of the crop and slowed the rest. By the end of May only 4 percent of the state reported adequate top soil moisture. The mountain region around Blairsville was the only exception where favorable distribution of rainfall helped produce a good crop of corn; dryland corn across the rest of the state suffered from extremely high temperatures and drought. In early June, tropical storm Barry brought some relief but in general rainfall was scattered and below normal. Greater amounts of irrigation were needed to produce what turned out to be a good corn crop for Georgia. Harvest proceeded normally.

Rainfall during the season was 10 to 23 inches below long term averages at the corn variety test locations as listed below. The driest area in the state continues to be in the Limestone Valley around Calhoun where only 40% of normal rainfall occurred.

#### Growing Season Rainfall<sup>1</sup>, 2007

Month	Blairsville	Calhoun <sup>2</sup>	Griffin	Midville	Plains	Tifton
----- inches -----						
February	1.81	1.74	2.28	2.50	3.00	2.24
March	2.39	1.41	2.50	1.62	2.00	1.52
April	2.90	1.36	1.26	2.73	2.39	.45
May	.59	.26	.62	.45	.02	.13
June	4.39	4.31	3.12	7.97	5.37	5.89
July	6.48	3.30	4.31	2.88	4.07	3.58
August	3.50	1.19	2.68	3.41	4.52	6.96
September	1.56	1.46	2.93	1.27	2.71	2.62
<i>Total (8 mo)</i>	23.62	15.03	19.70	22.83	24.08	23.39
<i>Normal (8 mo)*</i>	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 progressed a bit behind the 5-year average. Of the 530,000 planted acres 470,000 were harvested for grain. Yields were estimated at 118 bu/acre, six bushels above last year, giving a total of 55.5 million bushels. The Georgia corn crop was 220 percent more than last year and the largest since 1998.