

# 2007 PEANUT, COTTON, AND TOBACCO PERFORMANCE TESTS

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## The Season

The 2007 row crop season in Georgia was hot and very dry for the second consecutive year. Beginning in April extreme to exceptional drought (a 100 year event) developed over two-thirds of the state. This area included all of Georgia north of the fall line and the western half of the Coastal Plain region. The only exception was the southeastern one-third of the state which received some beneficial rainfall from tropical storm Berry in early June.

Rainfall amounts recorded monthly at the five test locations in Georgia are presented in the following table. Lack of rain during the growing season is evident as deficiencies ranged from 19-10 inches. Precipitation in the eastern Piedmont region around Athens and in the southwest corner around Bainbridge was down 51% and 41%, respectively; however the driest area in the state continues to be in the Limestone Valley (40% of normal rainfall).

**2007 Rainfall<sup>1</sup>**

Month	Athens <sup>2</sup>	Attapulgus <sup>3</sup>	Midville	Plains	Tifton
----- inches -----					
March	3.19	0.79	1.62	2.00	1.52
April	1.80	0.42	2.73	2.39	0.45
May	0.55	0.19	0.45	0.02	0.13
June	2.23	2.11	7.97	5.37	5.89
July	3.04	3.13	2.88	4.07	3.58
August	1.31	5.09	3.41	4.52	6.96
September	2.15	2.48	1.27	2.71	2.62
October	1.61	5.22	1.91	1.44	3.04
November	2.12	2.18	0.41	1.70	0.91
Total	18.00	21.61	22.65	24.22	25.10
Normal (9 mo)	36.76	38.74	33.95	35.29	35.11

1. Data provided in part by Dr. G. Hoogenboom, Georgia Station, Griffin, GA.
2. Plant Sciences Farm.
3. Attapulgus Research Center is nearest location to the Bainbridge site.

Some crop commodity acres decreased this growing season. Cotton producers planted 1,040,000 acres, 26% less than 2006. Acreage of peanuts fell nine percent when compared to 2006. Tobacco was one commodity that farmers increased this growing season, 20,000 acres were planted (an 18% increase over 2006).

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Harvest was delayed due to cool weather in early fall. Again this fall, peanut producers had to irrigate their ground before digging. 520,000 acres (10% less than 2006) of peanuts were picked this year and per acre yield is set at 3,050 pounds, 10% above last year. The number of acres of harvested cotton was the lowest in 14 years and coupled with four percent yield decrease, 1,650,000 bales were produced, a 30% reduction in yield from 2006. An increase in tobacco acres along with a 13% increase in per acre poundage over 2006 pushed total production up 33%. Although there was an increase in tobacco acreage this year, during each of the last three years in Georgia pounds of tobacco produced has been the least in any year since 1932.