

## 2010 Corn Performance Tests

Edited by

Anton E. Coy, J. LaDon Day, and John D. Gasset

### The Season

Corn planting got off to a slower than average start due to wet fields in mid and late March but quickly caught up with sunny and warm weather in early April. Late April rains and early May cooler temperatures were beneficial. Corn silked ahead of average and a rainy period in early June helped. Strong winds caused some hybrids to root lodge. Hot and dry summer conditions, except for July 4th week, resulted in one of the hottest summers on record, severely damaging non-irrigated corn and increasing water usage for the irrigated crop. High temperatures and humidity in irrigated corn fields allowed southern rust and southern corn leaf blight to hurt yields in some areas. Northern corn leaf blight symptoms and sun scald were noted on some hybrids. Stink bugs were again a problem in some areas. Good harvest conditions brought the crop out slightly ahead of long-term averages. Grain quality was generally very good.

Seasonal rainfall totals, as shown in the table below, were below normal at all statewide variety testing program locations. Growing conditions this corn season in counties near Plains were extremely dry. The average corn season rainfall deficit of 25% in the area around Plains was the largest in the state, while the other areas of Georgia received about 87% of normal.

**Growing Season Rainfall<sup>1</sup>, 2010**

Month	Blairsville	Calhoun <sup>2</sup>	Griffin	Midville	Plains	Tifton
	----- inches -----					
February	3.98	4.06	4.12	2.82	3.36	3.36
March	3.49	4.50	5.67	2.71	3.61	2.82
April	2.82	4.73	2.33	1.82	1.95	4.36
May	3.76	4.39	4.99	3.21	5.99	5.96
June	3.24	2.07	1.52	4.83	4.72	5.09
July	1.91	4.82	4.25	4.58	1.33	1.53
August	9.28	4.80	7.45	3.87	2.91	3.32
September	7.60	1.76	3.04	2.89	1.85	2.44
<i>Total (8 mo)</i>	36.08	31.13	33.37	26.73	25.72	28.88
<i>Normal (8 mo)*</i>	38.62	38.47	34.43	30.74	33.77	32.24

1. Data submitted by Dr. G. Hoogenboom, Georgia Station, Griffin, GA.

2. Floyd County location.

\* Based on average February to September (8 mo), 1971 to 2000.

Georgia corn producers planted 350,000 acres this season, 17% less than last year. Corn harvested for grain was 14% less than during 2009 and produced only 35 million bushels, 68% as much as the previous year.