

# 2010 PEANUT, COTTON AND TOBACCO PERFORMANCE TESTS

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## The Season

The spring weather of 2010 was again wet and cold, especially during March. Soggy soil conditions challenged land preparation due to the persistent and sometimes torrential rains received in Georgia over the winter; however, producers quickly caught up with sunny and warm weather in early April. Hot, dry conditions returned in June and persisted throughout one of the hottest summers and falls on record.

Rainfall amounts recorded monthly at the five test locations in Georgia during the 2010 growing season are presented in the following table. Seasonal rainfall totals were below normal across all of south Georgia, with extremely hot and dry growing conditions this summer and fall in Plains and surrounding counties. The average rainfall deficit was 25% in the area around Plains, the largest shortage in the state. However, northeast Georgia around Athens and surrounding counties received 18% above normal for the nine-month reporting period.

### 2010 Rainfall<sup>1</sup>

Month	Athens <sup>2</sup>	Attapulugus <sup>3</sup>	Midville	Plains	Tifton
March	2.86	3.92	2.71	3.61	2.82
April	2.07	7.73	1.82	1.95	4.36
May	6.61	5.46	3.21	5.99	5.96
June	6.27	5.25	4.83	4.72	5.09
July	2.05	2.37	4.58	1.33	1.53
August	9.48	4.06	3.87	2.91	3.32
September	5.58	2.46	2.89	1.85	2.44
October	2.36	2.03	0.62	0.97	0.35
November	4.97	2.46	1.57	2.34	3.53
Total	42.25	35.74	26.10	25.67	29.40
Normal (9 mo)	35.92	41.76	32.06	35.23	33.65

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

Crop maturity progressed ahead of the 5-year average and harvest conditions for the year were excellent compared to last season. During 2010 peanut producers planted 55,000 more acres than during 2009, an increase of 11%. Cotton farmers seeded 1.33 million acres of cotton during 2010, 33% more than last year. 2010 tobacco producers decreased acreage another 2,400 acres, 17% less than 2009.

State peanut yield per acre of 3,400 pounds produced 8% more pounds than during 2009, but 18% less than the 2008 record production of 2.33 billion pounds. Cotton per acre yield in 2010 of 779 pounds was 14% less than 2009 and the least per acre production in Georgia in six years. However, due to increase in cotton acreage (33%) in 2010, bale number produced was the most in four years. Tobacco harvested acres declined 17% from the 2009 acreage, continuing a yearly decline. An increase of 8% in tobacco per acre yield during 2010 was not enough to offset a yearly decline of 11% from the previous year. Thus, a new low yearly tobacco production was set in 2010. Only 24.9 million pounds were produced in 2010, the lowest production in Georgia history dating back to 1899. The previous record low production in Georgia was during the 2005 tobacco crop year (27 million pounds).