

## 2011 Corn Performance Tests

Edited by

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### The Season

Soils across the state were abnormally dry as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, however, there was adequate planting moisture in most areas. Planting progressed ahead of 5-year averages. Plant stands and early season growth were good in most areas. However, by early May less than half of the state had adequate moisture. By the end of May, 2/3 of the state was under a severe drought and almost all of the non-irrigated corn crop was severely damaged beyond salvage from the high heat and lack of moisture. Irrigation was required in the early growth stages of this corn crop and continued through black layer maturity. Mid-June and early July storms caused some hybrids to lodge. Disease and insect pressure was light and quality was good in irrigated fields. Harvest commenced and ended ahead of long term average.

Seasonal rainfall totals, as shown in the table below, were below normal at each of the statewide variety testing program locations. The rainfall deficit was highest in the Coastal Plain area averaging more than eight inches below the long term norm. The area around Plains was the most droughty in the state during the 2010 growing season and again in 2011 received only 68% of normal rainfall, thus continuing to be the driest section of the state.

**Growing Season Rainfall<sup>1</sup>, 2011**

Month	Blairsville	Calhoun <sup>2</sup>	Griffin	Midville	Plains	Tifton
----- inches -----						
February	3.87	3.46	5.31	6.89	4.32	3.29
March	10.01	10.31	6.50	3.91	3.63	2.71
April	8.84	6.91	2.11	1.41	2.01	1.60
May	2.41	1.52	0.79	2.33	0.03	0.01
June	3.43	4.11	1.89	1.73	1.12	4.48
July	2.41	2.89	6.32	3.15	7.00	6.26
August	2.55	1.30	0.68	1.02	1.50	1.82
September	3.61	7.42	2.63	2.40	3.38	5.71
<i>Total (8 mo)</i>	37.13	37.92	26.23	22.84	22.99	25.88
<i>Normal (8 mo)</i>	38.50	38.37	34.34	30.65	33.69	32.15

1. Data submitted by Dr. I. Flitcroft, Georgia Station, Griffin, GA.

2. Floyd County location.

Georgia corn producers planted 345,000 acres during 2011, an increase of 16.9% over 2010. Grain harvest totalled 290,000 acres, an 18.1% increase over the previous year. Yield per acre of 152 bushels set a new Georgia state record and produced a total of 44.1 million bushels, a 24.1% increase over last year. The number of dryland corn acres abandoned and not harvested during 2011 contributed to the high per acre yield level.