

2013 SOYBEAN, SORGHUM GRAIN AND SILAGE, AND SUMMER ANNUAL FORAGES PERFORMANCE TESTS

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

The Season

Georgia agricultural producers had not received the amount of rainfall in 2013 since 2009. For most of the state, soil moisture was adequate for planting, but spring plantings of soybeans and sorghum were delayed due to excessive rainfall amounts and delayed harvest of small grains. Low soil temperatures from cool nights and lower than normal temperatures during the day were also concerns. Irrigation in the Coastal Plain was needed in May but primarily utilized in the fall months of September and October. The Limestone Valley dried out after July and remained dry until November. The Piedmont also required irrigation late in the season. Asian soybean rust was a concern for the entire state due to weather patterns capable of transporting spores, while thrips, army worms, and the soybean platispid were the predominate insect pests.

Rainfall amounts recorded monthly at the six test locations in Georgia during the 2013 growing season are presented in the following table. All locations received above average rainfall except Plains, which received one inch less than average rainfall.

2013 Rainfall¹

Month	Athens ²	Calhoun ³	Griffin	Midville	Plains	Tifton
	----- inches -----					
March	3.75	4.86	3.89	3.84	4.84	3.13
April	2.92	8.80	4.70	3.89	3.16	4.44
May	4.13	6.97	5.69	1.83	2.25	2.61
June	10.59	6.26	7.32	16.17	5.24	13.31
July	9.19	6.79	8.26	4.93	7.77	5.79
August	4.87	1.56	3.66	4.78	5.91	8.71
September	3.44	2.89	2.05	1.31	2.16	3.12
October	0.67	1.42	0.93	0.70	0.36	0.63
November	2.12	4.83	1.99	0.78	2.54	3.50
Total	41.68	44.38	38.49	38.23	34.23	45.24
Normal (9 mo)*	35.92	41.54	36.40	32.60	35.23	33.55

1. Georgia data provided by Dr. Ian Flitcroft, Griffin Campus, Griffin, Ga.

2. Plant Sciences Farm.

3. Floyd County location.

The 2013 crop maturity progressed normally based on the five-year average, while harvest conditions continued to be challenging with weekly rainfall. Georgia soybean producers planted 230,000 acres this year, a 17% increase from last year. 50,000 acres of sorghum were planted in 2013, a reduction of 5,000 acres.

The state yield for soybeans was 38 bushels per acre and produced 8.36 million bushels. This was a 19% increase in soybean yield over last year due to increase in acres planted and bushels per acre produced. Grain sorghum acres harvested was 45,000 acres in Georgia this year. This is an increase of 12% from last year. Hay production increased 16% in 2013 to 2.9 tons/acre or 1.7 million tons.