

# 2014 PEANUT, COTTON AND TOBACCO PERFORMANCE TESTS

*John D. Gasset, J. LaDon Day, Dustin G. Dunn,  
and Stevan S. LaHue, Editors*

## The Season

For the second year in a row, Georgia agronomic producers in 2014 were fortunate to have adequate soil moisture for planting combined with an abundance of rainfall. Prolonged and periodic precipitation events led to spring plantings being delayed for many farmers in Georgia. Cooler than normal temperatures early in the planting season resulted in low soil temperatures and slowed germination for many crops. Irrigation needs did increase for much of the state in June, July, and August.

Seasonal rainfall amounts recorded at the five test locations in Georgia during 2014 are listed in the table below. Athens and Plains were the only two locations out of five that did not receive the normal amount of rainfall. Attapulgus, Midville, and Tifton received 17-25 percent more rainfall than normal.

| 2014 Rainfall <sup>1</sup> |                     |                         |          |        |        |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Month                      | Athens <sup>2</sup> | Attapulgus <sup>3</sup> | Midville | Plains | Tifton |
| ----- inches -----         |                     |                         |          |        |        |
| March                      | 3.75                | 8.98                    | 3.71     | 3.40   | 5.46   |
| April                      | 4.56                | 13.8                    | 6.24     | 7.91   | 8.72   |
| May                        | 4.11                | 3.20                    | 9.21     | 1.25   | 8.41   |
| June                       | 4.72                | 2.28                    | 2.98     | 1.87   | 2.88   |
| July                       | 2.92                | 4.52                    | 5.95     | 2.70   | 3.00   |
| August                     | 2.26                | 0.61                    | 2.65     | 1.00   | 1.50   |
| September                  | 1.22                | 7.64                    | 3.73     | 2.67   | 5.96   |
| October                    | 2.78                | 3.08                    | 3.70     | 2.85   | 2.21   |
| November                   | 3.34                | 5.91                    | 4.22     | 4.28   | 6.54   |
| Total                      | 29.66               | 50.02                   | 42.39    | 27.93  | 44.68  |
| Normal (9 mo)              | 35.92               | 41.54                   | 32.60    | 35.23  | 33.65  |

1. Data provided in part by Dr. I. Flitcroft, UGA Griffin Campus, Griffin, GA.

2. Plant Sciences Farm.

3. Attapulgus Research Center is the nearest location to the Bainbridge site.

Crop maturity progressed above the five-year average, however, harvest conditions were hampered due to wet soils during the fall of 2014. Peanut producers planted 600,000 acres, an increase of 28% from 2013, and the largest acreage since 2008. Cotton producers seeded 1.38 million acres in Georgia, a 1% increase from last year. Tobacco producers in the state transplanted between 13,000 and 15,000 acres in 2014, the largest acreage in the last four years.

The Georgia state peanut yield per acre in 2014 was 4,100 pounds, 7% less than 2013. As a result of the increase in peanut acres planted, 2.42 billion pounds of peanuts were produced in 2014, a 22% increase in production from 2014. Cotton yield of 876 lbs/acre this year was a 3% increase from last year's record yield of 850 lbs/acre, a total production of 2.5 million bales or 4% more than the previous year. Georgia tobacco yield on a per acre basis was 2,300 pounds, a 24% increase from 2013. Total tobacco production was 34.5 million pounds, a 35% increase over last year.