2013-2014 SMALL GRAIN PERFORMANCE TESTS

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The Season

Georgia's small grain producers faced dry conditions for forage planting in the fall of 2013, a conundrum of sorts considering the amount of rain received during the summer months. Topsoil moisture over much of the state was short to adequate until November when much needed rains were received. Unfavorable soil conditions prevented germination in some sown fields. Delayed seeding of most acreage resulted in a mid- to late-planted crop or many acres not being planted. Georgia wheat producers seeded 300,000 acres of wheat during the 2013-2014 crop year, a decrease of 120,000 acres or 28% less than the previous year. Rye producers seeded 170,000 acres, 10% less than last year, while oat acreage increased to 60,000 acres or 17% over last year.

Rainfall amounts recorded monthly (nine month season) at the five test locations in Georgia and at Marianna, FL during the 2013-2014 growing season are presented in the following table. All locations received slightly more than normal rainfall except Plains which received 2.83 inches less than normal.

2013-2014 Rainfall[1]

Month	Year	Calhoun[2]	Griffin	Midville	Plains	Tifton	Marianna, FL[3]
		---------- inches ----------					
October	2013	1.42	0.69	0.7	0.36	0.63	1.96
November	2013	4.83	1.82	1.78	2.54	3.5	3.91
December	2013	9.25	9.84	4.04	8.69	2.08	4.44
January	2014	3.08	4.06	3.28	3.1	3.12	2.15
February	2014	4.63	9.21	5.39	4.17	4.35	4.99
March	2014	4.38	5.24	3.71	3.4	5.46	7.7
April	2014	7.02	5.64	6.24	7.91	8.72	13.18
May	2014	3.81	1.53	9.21	1.25	8.41	4.03
June	2014	5.63	3.82	2.98	1.96	1.96	2.32
Total (9 months)		44.05	41.85	37.33	33.38	38.23	44.68
Normal (9 months)		42.15	37.96	32.13	36.21	33.45	38.70

1. Data for Georgia sites collected by Dr. Ian Flitcroft, Griffin Campus, Griffin, Ga.
2. Floyd County location.
3. University of Florida North Florida Research and Education Center location.

The Georgia small grain growing season of 2013-2014 started off dry, however adequate precipitation occurred throughout the growing season. Due to cold temperatures, vernalization was not an issue as it was in the previous small grain season. There was sporadic insect damage around the state due to Hessian fly and

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cereal leaf beetle, but the damage was minimal. Powdery mildew was of concern for farmers in extreme south Georgia and required an application of fungicide. Also, Fusarium Head Blight disease caused economic damage for the first time in decades due to the cold, wet weather during anthesis. Crown rust in oats was a concern for oat producers for the second year in a row.

During 2014 Georgia wheat producers averaged harvesting 55 bushels per acre, a decrease from last year's record 60 bushels per acre. There was a total of 250,000 acres of wheat grain harvested, 100,000 acres or 28% less than 2013. This acreage of wheat produced 13.75 million bushels, a 35% decrease from last year. Twenty thousand acres of oats were harvested for grain during 2014, the same harvested acres as in 2012. Twenty thousand acres of rye were harvested for grain, a reduction of 50% from the previous year. Rye production in Georgia is primarily for forage.