

2014 Soybean, Sorghum Grain and Silage, and Summer Annual Forages Performance Tests

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The Season

Georgia agricultural producers were faced with cool, wet planting conditions for a second year. 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 needs increased across much of the state in June and July. Green soybean stems were a concern for some growers across the state at harvest, while Asian soybean rust was not as big a concern for Georgia growers this year as it was in 2013. The predominant insect pests included army worms and the sugar cane aphid.

Rainfall amounts recorded monthly at the six test locations in Georgia during the 2014 growing season are presented in the following table. Midville and Tifton were the only two locations out of six that received above normal rainfall for the season.

Growing Season Rainfall¹, 2014

| Month | Year | Athens ² | Calhoun ³ | Griffin | Midville | Plains | Tifton |
|----------------------|------|---------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| ----- inches ----- | | | | | | | |
| March | 2014 | 3.75 | 4.38 | 5.24 | 3.71 | 3.40 | 5.46 |
| April | 2014 | 4.56 | 7.02 | 5.64 | 6.24 | 7.91 | 8.72 |
| May | 2014 | 4.11 | 3.81 | 1.53 | 9.21 | 1.25 | 8.41 |
| June | 2014 | 4.72 | 5.63 | 3.82 | 2.98 | 1.87 | 2.88 |
| July | 2014 | 2.92 | 2.75 | 3.35 | 5.95 | 2.70 | 3.00 |
| August | 2014 | 2.26 | 1.37 | 2.26 | 2.65 | 1.00 | 1.50 |
| September | 2014 | 1.22 | 3.26 | 0.05 | 3.73 | 2.67 | 5.96 |
| October | 2014 | 2.78 | 3.83 | 4.06 | 3.70 | 2.85 | 2.21 |
| November | 2014 | 3.34 | 4.00 | 2.72 | 4.22 | 4.28 | 6.54 |
| <i>Total (9 mo)</i> | | 29.66 | 36.05 | 28.67 | 42.39 | 27.93 | 44.68 |
| <i>Normal (9 mo)</i> | | 35.92 | 41.54 | 36.54 | 32.60 | 35.23 | 33.65 |

1. Data submitted by Dr. I. Flitcroft, Georgia Station, Griffin, Ga.
2. Plant Sciences Farm.
3. Floyd County location.

The 2014 crop maturity progressed normally based on the five-year average while harvest conditions continued to be challenging with weekly rainfall. Georgia soybean producers planted 300,000 acres this year, a 23% increase from 2013. 35,000 acres of sorghum were planted in 2014, a reduction of 20,000 acres from last year, and the lowest amount of acreage since 1952.

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The state yield for soybeans was 41 bushels per acre (record yield per acre) and produced 11.89 million bushels. This production was a 22% increase over 2013 due to the increase in acres planted and bushels per acre produced. 25,000 acres of grain sorghum were harvested in Georgia this year. This is a 17% reduction from the previous year. Hay production increased 0.07% to 2.9 tons/acre or 1.682 million tons in 2014.