

# 2015 Soybean, Sorghum Grain and Silage, and Summer Annual Forages Performance Tests

Edited by  
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## The Season

Georgia agricultural producers were faced with highly variable weather conditions for planting across the state in 2015. 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 early in the spring, and the lack thereof for many in the Coastal Plain in May. Low soil temperatures from cool nights and lower than normal temperatures during the day were also concerning. Irrigation needs increased across much of the state in May and June. Harvesting was an issue for many growers due to frequent amounts of precipitation and wet soils. Asian soybean rust was not a concern for Georgia growers this year as it was in 2013. The predominant insect pests included armyworms and the sugar cane aphid.

Rainfall amounts recorded monthly at the six test locations in Georgia during the 2015 growing season are presented in the following table. Calhoun and Midville were the only two locations out of six that received less than normal rainfall for the season.

**Growing Season Rainfall<sup>1</sup>, 2015**

Month	Year	Athens <sup>2</sup>	Calhoun <sup>3</sup>	Griffin	Midville	Plains	Tifton
----- inches -----							
March	2015	3.19	3.73	3.68	3.50	1.46	1.50
April	2015	8.58	5.99	7.16	4.04	6.28	5.63
May	2015	2.25	2.85	2.74	1.49	1.90	0.92
June	2015	2.81	3.48	5.08	3.31	2.55	3.43
July	2015	4.17	3.93	2.38	3.04	4.37	12.80
August	2015	6.42	5.28	8.41	3.90	6.84	4.35
September	2015	5.24	3.06	4.11	2.93	6.79	1.52
October	2015	8.20	5.86	2.25	2.58	1.37	1.95
November	2015	9.84	6.81	9.51	5.00	6.86	4.86
<i>Total (9 mo)</i>		50.70	40.99	45.32	29.79	38.42	36.96
<i>Normal (9 mo)</i>		35.87	41.50	36.50	32.55	35.19	33.61

1. Data for Georgia sites collected by Dr. I. Flitcroft, Griffin Campus, Griffin, Ga.

2. Plant Sciences Farm.

3. Floyd County location.

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The 2015 crop maturity progressed normally based on the five-year average, while harvest conditions continued to be challenging with weekly rainfall. Georgia soybean producers planted 330,000 acres this year, a 10% increase from 2014. 50,000 acres of sorghum were planted in 2015, an increase of 10,000 acres from last year.

The state yield for soybeans was 44 bushels per acre and produced 14.08 million bushels. This production was an 18% increase over 2014 due to the increase in acres planted and bushels per acre produced. 26,000 acres of grain sorghum were harvested in Georgia this year. This is the same amount as the previous year. Current sorghum silage production is not available, but according to the USDA NASS Website, 14,200 acres were harvested equaling 174,600 tons or 12.2 tons/acre (averages of the last five years). Hay production increased 13% to 3 tons/acre or 1.62 million tons in 2015.