

2016 PEANUT, COTTON, AND TOBACCO PERFORMANCE TESTS

John D. Gassett, J. LaDon Day, Dustin G. Dunn, Henry Jordan Jr., and Stevan S. LaHue, Editors

The Season

As in previous years, Georgia’s agronomic producers faced variable weather conditions for planting across the state. For much of the state, adequate moisture for spring planting cotton and peanuts was not a concern. Irrigation demands increased as the growing season progressed for many here in the state. For the first time in three years, soil temperatures did not delay spring plantings. Dry weather during the fall allowed for cotton picking to proceed without delay, while peanuts required added moisture for digging in some areas.

Rainfall amounts recorded monthly at the five test locations in Georgia during the 2016 growing season are presented in the following table. Midville and Tifton were the only two locations statewide to receive above normal or near normal rainfall, respectively.

2016 Rainfall ¹					
Month	Athens ²	Attapulgus ³	Midville	Plains	Tifton
----- inches -----					
March	0.84	4.33	2.83	2.39	5.26
April	1.55	2.38	3.95	4.57	6.34
May	0.82	1.79	4.22	0.84	1.45
June	5.92	4.16	3.94	4.02	3.94
July	2.20	2.06	6.20	1.59	3.38
August	1.70	6.86	3.88	4.66	6.31
September	1.30	0.42	4.88	2.20	6.16
October	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.06
November	2.16	0.42	0.42	0.95	0.69
Total	16.49	22.42	32.82	21.22	33.59
Normal (9 mo)*	NA	44.11	30.11	39.96	33.83

1. Data provided in part by Dr. I. Flitcroft, UGA Griffin Campus, Griffin, GA.
 2. Iron Horse Plant Sciences Farm; long term data is not available for this site.
 3. Attapulgus Research Center is the nearest location to the Bainbridge site.
- * Based on average March to November (9 months) 1981-2001.

Crop maturity progressed above the five-year average, and harvest conditions were not slowed in 2016 due to wet weather for the first time in years. Peanut producers planted 720,000 acres, an 8% decrease from 2015. Cotton producers seeded 1.18 million acres in Georgia, a 4% increase over last year. Tobacco producers in the state transplanted between 13,000 and 15,000 acres in 2016.

John D. Gassett is the program director of the statewide variety testing program, J. LaDon Day is a research scientist, and Henry Jordan Jr. is a research professional III in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Griffin Campus, Griffin, Georgia 30223-1797. Dustin G. Dunn and Stevan S. LaHue are research professional III and agricultural specialist, respectively, in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Tifton Campus, Tifton, Georgia 31793-5766.

The Georgia state peanut yield per acre in 2016 was 3,940 pounds per acre. This is a 12% reduction in yield from 2015. Georgia peanut producers brought to the market more than 2.793 billion pounds of peanuts this year, a decrease of 17% from 2015. Cotton yielded 903 pounds per acre this year, a 6% decrease from last year, and a total production of 2.2 million bales, 2% less than the previous year. Georgia tobacco production on a per-acre basis was 2,100 pounds, a 300 pound decrease from 2015. Total production was 28.35 million pounds, 4.05 million pounds less than last year.