



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 14, 2024
TO: Seed Companies and Crop Breeders
FROM: Dr. Daniel J. Mailhot
Program Director
UGA Variety Testing Program
SUBJECT: Georgia and Florida 2024-2025 Winter Grain and Forage Performance Trials

Attached are application materials for submitting entries of wheat, oats, rye, triticale, and ryegrass to the Variety Testing Program in Georgia (OVT) for the winter trial season.

General Information - Entries will be drilled in 65 ft² plots with a 7-inch row spacing and replicated 3 or 4 times in each test. Irrigation will only be applied if needed for germination or herbicide activation.

Seed Treatment – Fungicide, insecticide and nematicide seed treatments are permitted. Both systemic and non-systemic materials are acceptable, but all seed treatments must be labeled and approved for commercial use.

Recommended List – Varieties are considered for inclusion on the Recommended List after 3 (grain) or 2 (forage) consecutive years of data have been collected. The committee's decision is based on yields and tolerance to disease and insects. To remain on the list, a variety should be retested a minimum of every 2 years and continue to show acceptable performance.

Testing Options -

Grain Trials – Trials are conducted on wheat and oats. Rye, triticale and barley are not currently offered. Oat grain is entered statewide, while wheat can be entered by geographic region. Wheat tests are bundled as follows:

- North + Central—Rome, Griffin, Plains (2) = 4 tests total.
- Central + South— Plains (2), Midville, Tifton = 4 tests total.

Forage Trials – Trials are conducted on wheat, oats, rye, triticale and annual ryegrass. Locations include Rome, Griffin, and Plains+Tifton (bundled to allow S GA recommendations). We anticipate harvesting each test 3 times.

Florida grain trials – These free tests are conducted at Citra (north central FL). Unless you notify us otherwise, we will include all your submitted entries of oats and triticale.

Disease and insect evaluations – These free screenings will be conducted as opportunities permit.

Testing Fees – The fees work out to \$150 per wheat grain entry (\$110 for oats) and \$200 per forage entry. Each university participant is limited to \$3,000 worth of free forage testing per species entered. Additional entries can be entered at the standard fee rate. There are no limits on grain test entries. Invoices will be sent after planting. No refund will be issued in the event that a test is lost due to weather or other circumstances beyond the reasonable control of OVT.

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Deadlines – Applications are due September 1. Please send seed as soon as possible, preferably no later than September 15th. We prefer to start planting some forages in late September.

Seed Required - Please utilize the seed calculator in the Excel application for the most accurate amount needed. If that is not an option, the following amounts are the minimum required to participate in all available tests by species—wheat 9.82 lbs, oat 7.40 lbs, triticale 4.18 lbs, rye 3.06 lbs, and ryegrass 0.67 lbs. Sending large quantities is acceptable too.

Mail checks and seed (if USPS) to:

Daniel Mailhot
UGA-Redding Building
1109 Experiment Street
Griffin, GA 30223-1731

Ship seed (if FedEx or UPS) to:

Daniel Mailhot
UGA-Variety Testing
1655 Hwy 16 W
Griffin, GA 30223-2091

If you have any questions or for some reason cannot send the seed by the specified date, please contact Statewide Variety Testing at (678) 572-3015 or by e-mail to daniel.mailhot@uga.edu. Thank you for your cooperation.

<u>Testing Site</u>	<u>Geographic Region</u>	<u>USDA Plant Hardiness Zone*</u>
Rome, GA	Limestone Valley	8a (Avg. coldest temp 10-15 F)
Griffin, GA	Piedmont	8a (Avg. coldest temp 10-15 F)
Plains, GA	Coastal Plain	8b (Avg. coldest temp 10-15 F)
Midville, GA	Coastal Plain	8b (Avg. coldest temp 15-20 F)
Tifton, GA	Coastal Plain	9a (Avg. coldest temp 20-25 F)
Citra, FL	Coastal Plain	9a (Avg. coldest temp 20-25 F)

*USDA revised the plant hardiness zones in 2023, reclassifying some locations into the next warmest zone.

GUIDELINES FOR THE WINTER GRAIN AND FORAGE PERFORMANCE TRIALS

1. A fee will be assessed for each entry submitted by private companies for evaluation in each test. An invoice will be sent. Payment is due 30 days from the invoice date.
2. Entries submitted by public agencies, such as public universities or USDA, will receive a limited amount of free testing.
3. Entry fees for tests lost due to weather or other circumstances beyond the reasonable control of OVT will not be refunded.
4. Do not submit any seed containing regulated or stewarded biotechnology traits.
5. Seed produced from the trials, as well as any excess planting seed, will be destroyed and/or combined with other entries' seed and disposed of as commodity grain.
6. Participants retain full rights to their intellectual property. Please send any desired Material Transfer Agreements (MTA's) to UGA Innovation Gateway Contracts Manager (igcontracts@uga.edu.) MTA's are only valid if signed by an authorized representative of the UGA Research Foundation, Inc. Please allow adequate lead time if your application involves a MTA for submission of entries.
7. Results will be published in an annual report. Individual plot data is not provided to participants.
8. The Program Director, in concert with their Department Head, reserves the right to close a test due to a lack of entries or to limit the number of entries in any given test.