



Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

SPRING 2017



MEMBER
Association of Official
Seed Certifying Agencies
<http://www.aosca.org>

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MEMBER
www.georgiagrown.com

I've Been Thinking - Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

For decades the largest increase in yields for many crops is a direct result of improved genetics. Producing more food from fewer acres with fewer inputs allows a small percentage of the population to feed this country as well as the world. With a growing population, fewer cultivatable acres and dwindling natural resources, we have to become even more efficient and productive.

Plant breeders devote much of their time and resources improving plants (developing new plant varieties) to resist diseases and insects and survive environmental stresses, such as drought, that decrease yield. Plant resistance or tolerance and adaption are likely the most cost effective way to combat these yield robbing factors.

Developing new varieties is a costly and time consuming process requiring highly skilled and educated individuals, farms, state of the art laboratories, etc. Unless an entity, private or public, has a method to recover costs, then new variety development will not happen or, if it does, it will be at a very slow pace.

Since the passage of the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) in 1970 and revised in 1994 and the ability to patent a plant or trait, new variety development has accelerated. Plant patents and PVPA, known as Intellectual Property Protection laws, allow developers to have exclusive access to their product and thus be rewarded for their time and investment.

In an effort to promote the value of new varieties and the understanding of Intellectual Property laws, the Georgia Crop Improvement Association has joined the Seed Innovation and Protection Alliance (SIPA). The Alliance is a member driven organization created to provide a unified and consistent voice for education and best practices around intellectual property protection and its value to society. SIPA supports the use of education as the best way to promote respect for intellectual property rights.

To learn more about SIPA, visit their web site at www.seedipalliance.com. Also, see page three of this newsletter for more information.

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture / Tifton Seed Lab Update

Scott Hobby, Program Director - GDA Seed Laboratory Section

Peanut testing for 2017 is coming to an end very soon. The growing season last year brought challenges to our testing season. The overall averages for Certified peanuts dipped into the 80's this year. The main reason for the reduction in germination was aflatoxin type mold that appeared during the germination process. The extended dry harvest with two months of no rain in many areas truly placed a stress on many peanut fields. In addition, the extremely mild winter during storage probably played a role in compounding the outbreak on some lots. The good news is peanuts showed just how **resilient** a seed they are to still perform in the 80's.

The lab has processed over 10,000 samples in the last three and a half months. These numbers include all types of major crops and vegetable seed. The turnaround time for samples to be sent back out to the industry with final results averaged around 7 days. The turnaround time was able to be achieved with our lab equipment operating without any break downs in 2017. The lab staff played a major role by being dedicated to putting in many long hours and working together every day as a TEAM. *We at the Department of Agriculture greatly appreciate the faith that the industry has placed in our testing facility.*

The future continues to look bright for our expanded growth. One of the major new projects we'll be working on is greenhouse research on peanuts. The greenhouse work will compare lab results to field type conditions. The other project will be the starting up a new genetics lab in the later part of year. Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions you may have about your seed. Looking forward to a great growing season.

GCIA Members Section is now LIVE

The screenshot shows the website for the Georgia Crop Improvement Association. The header includes the logo and navigation links: HOME | CONTACT | MEMBERSHIP LOGIN. A search bar is located below the navigation. The main content area is titled "Seed Certification (Members Only)" and lists "Application Packets by Seed Type:" with two categories: "Peanuts (includes all forms below)" and "Rye, Canola, Triticale, Lupine (includes all forms below)". Each category lists a numbered list of forms: 1. Application Form, 2. Membership Form, 3. Fee Schedule, 4. Instructions, and 5. Buying Point Contact Form. A "Related Publications" sidebar on the right lists: Seed Tag Order Form, Seed Transcript Form, Declaration of Conditioned Seed Form, Bulk Seed Shipping & Receiving Report, Breeder Affidavit, and Pre-printed Bag Requirements.

The members section of the website (www.georgiacrop.com) is now available for your use. To access this new resource, click on MEMBERSHIP LOGIN in the top right corner of the site. In this section, you will find separate pages for Seed Certification, Turfgrass Certification, and Approved Conditioning Plants. Each page includes a number of documents, forms and other information we hope you will find useful. To access the members section, GCIA members should contact the office via email (joy.cooper@georgiacrop.com) or phone (706)542-2351) and we will provide you with the login and password.

GCIA Annual Meeting held March 21st

The Georgia Crop Improvement Association 72nd Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 21st at the Holiday Inn Downtown Athens. In the general session, GCIA members heard from several speakers including Dr. Sam Pardue, UGA CAES Dean; Jeff Sands, American Seed Trade Association; Dr. Adam Rabinowitz, Extension Ag Economist; Todd Martin, Independent Professional Seed Association; and Eloy Corona, Bayer Crop Science. During the commodity sessions, speakers included Dr. Clint Waltz, Extension Turfgrass Specialist; Mark Freeman, East Georgia Area Agronomist; and Dr. Ali Missaoui, Forage Breeder.

At the meeting, outgoing President Lane Morrell of Plantation Seed Conditioners was recognized for his service by Past-President Ernie Purcell of John B. Sanfilippo & Son (see picture). Special thanks to Lane on a job well done!

Also at the meeting, Kevin Calhoun of Birdsong Peanuts was sworn in as GCIA President for the coming year. In addition, Ricky Hartley of Golden Peanut & Tree Nuts was elected 1st Vice-President, and Ken Morrow was elected as 2nd Vice-President. Congratulations to all and thank you for your service!



GCIA recently joined the Seed Innovation & Protection Alliance (SIPA) as an institutional member. SIPA was formed by the American Seed Trade Association to create a unified and consistent voice for education and best practices around intellectual property protection and its value to our society. SIPA is solely focused on intellectual property issues within the seed industry. Its diverse membership represents organizations of all sizes and crop segments, including professionals who specialize in intellectual property rights.

Why does protecting seed intellectual property matter? Innovations from the seed industry are helping to address many of the economic, environmental and health issues we face as a global society. Seed improvements allow us to produce more food from the same land, which is essential to feed our growing population. Seed improvements result in produce that is healthier and more nutritious. Seed improvements mean less food waste because new varieties create produce that stays fresh longer and have more consistent quality. SIPA will help the industry communicate the value of these innovations, the need for investments in seed research and the critical importance of protecting new discoveries—all so plant breeders can continue to focus on developing seed improvements that benefit us all.

SIPA's membership is diverse in terms of organizational size and scope, and includes companies that develop and sell flower, vegetable, grass and row crop seeds. SIPA welcomes membership from across the seed and agricultural industry, including but not limited to, seed companies, growers, producers, authorized dealers, brokers, suppliers, service providers, universities, as well as state and federal agencies. To learn more, visit our web site: www.seedipalliance.com.

GCIA Peanut Seed Course held April 20th

The GCIA 56th Annual Peanut Seed Short Course was held on Thursday, April 20th at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. Peanut seed industry members and guests received a crop economic outlook, an update from the GA Seed Lab, an update on peanut sustainability, updates from the UGA Extension peanut team, and learned about technology upgrades at the Georgia Federal-State Inspection Service.



Dr. Marshall Lamb
USDA ARS



Dr. Scott Monfort
UGA Peanut Team



Tyron Spearman
NPBPA



Scott Hobby
GA Seed Lab

Photos courtesy of Jay Stone, Georgia Farm Bureau

High oleic gene patent expires in May

As most peanut seed producers are aware, several Georgia and Florida released peanut varieties contain the high oleic gene which is protected by a US patent. As of May 16, 2017, the High Oleic gene patent expires which impacts both the seed producer and the farmer.

Peanut varieties containing the high oleic gene which is transferred / sold after May 16, 2017 will not be assessed royalties per Section 3.2.1 of the license agreement between the Office of Technology Licensing, University of Florida and the licensee. Any questions should be directed to the University of Florida.

While the high oleic patent is expiring, all the affected varieties are also protected by Plant Variety Protection (PVP). Under PVP, a farmer may save enough seed to plant on his or her own farm holdings. No seed may be sold without permission from the variety owner. If permission is granted, seed must be sold as a class of certified seed.

Varieties containing the high oleic gene include: Florida-07, Florida Fancy, 107, 157, 297, 511, 727, McCloud, Spain, Georgia-02C, Georgia-04S, Georgia-08V, Georgia-09B, Georgia-11J, Georgia-13M, Georgia-14N, Georgia-16HO, and TifNV HI O/L.

Questions regarding other varieties should be directed to the GCIA office.

Seed Lab Appreciation Luncheon

On April 19, the Seed Laboratory Council, with the support of the Georgia Crop Improvement Association and the Georgia Peanut Commodity Commission, hosted a Seed Laboratory Appreciation Luncheon for the staff at the Georgia Department of Agriculture's complex in Tifton, Georgia. Appointed by Commissioner Gary Black, the Council works with the laboratory staff to foster professional growth, acquire funding for equipment, and to create awareness of the importance of the laboratory to the seed industry in the Southeast.

SE Turfgrass Conference set for May 16 in Tifton

The 71st Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference is set for May 16 at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. This conference is organized by the UGA Tifton Campus and ABAC, in cooperation with USDA ARS, US Golf Association, GA Golf Course Superintendents Association, GA Urban Ag Council and UGA Cooperative Extension.

The agenda is packed with great speakers and topics, including:
 UGA - Brian Schwartz, Jonathon Fox, Paul Raymer, Clint Waltz, Gerald Henry, Wayne Hanna
 UF - Kevin Kenworthy, Jing Zhang, Lin Xing, Bryan Unruh
 OSU - Yanqi Wu, Justin Moss, Dennis Martin
 NC State - Grady Miller, Susanna Milla-Lewis, Drew Pinnix

Lunch is sponsored by Georgia Crop Improvement Association, Georgia Seed Development and The Turfgrass Group. Refreshment breaks sponsored by the UGA Research Foundation.

If attending the FULL conference on Tuesday, you are invited to join other attendees for dinner on Monday evening at 6:30pm at the Golf Club of South Georgia (3922 US Hwy 41N, Tifton) courtesy of the Tifton Turf Breeding Program.

For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).



Don't miss GA / AL Seed Assoc Meeting



The Georgia Seed Association invites you to the 2017 Georgia / Alabama Seed Association Annual Meeting on July 9-10, 2017 at the Sandestin Beach & Golf Resort in Sandestin, Florida. President Lane Morrell, Vice President Tony Harper, and the Board of Directors hope you will make plans to join us.

Our friends in Alabama are hosting this year, and they have an excellent educational session planned. The meeting will feature great food as well activities for the entire family. We hope you'll join us this summer in Sandestin. If you are not a member of Georgia Seed, we invite you to join us. For more information, contact Billy Skaggs, Association Secretary, at wdskaggs@gmail.com.



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