

## **Final report for the 2019 Conference on Hot Topics on Peanuts**

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The purpose of the annual Georgia peanut tour is to bring the latest information on peanuts to tour participants and give a first-hand view of industry infrastructure from production and handling to processing and utilization. The “Hot Topics on Peanuts” is the first event of the tour through a formal educational setting to present information on hot topics and issues related to peanuts. This year the conference took place on September 17th, 2019 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Lake Blackshear Resort conference room, Cordele, GA. A total of 8 talks were presented. The focus of the 2019 Hot Topics was on “Peanut production practices” and the purpose of this focus session was to give the tour participants a brief tutorial on peanut production so they can better understand the production practices during the tour.

The first speaker was Dr. Scott Monfort, a UGA faculty member gave an update on the 2019 Georgia peanut crop. Dr. Stanley Fletcher, an emeritus faculty member from the UGA gave a presentation on Washington, DC and Farm Bill update.

For the special focus session on Peanut Production Practices, all presenters were using the what, why, when, and how format to discuss each topic. Dr. Scott Tubbs, a UGA cropping systems agronomist gave a presentation on what and why land preparation is an important issue for peanut production and provide specific suggestions on when and how land preparation is managed. Dr. Tubbs then addressed the topic on what, why, when and how planting is handled. The second speaker was Dr. Glen Harris, a UGA extension agronomist gave a presentation on soil nutrition and fertilizer applications. He discussed the primary (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), secondary (calcium, magnesium, and sulfur) and micronutrients for peanuts. Dr. Harris also followed the what, why, when, and how format to introduce nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and micronutrients for peanut production. Dr. Cristiane Pilon, a UGA peanut physiologist then discussed peanut plant growth physiology with focus on environmental conditions like water, light, temperature, and atmosphere gases. Her presentation cover the whole production season on why, when, and how these environmental conditions were managed from planting, early season, peak flowering, pod development, to seed maturity. Dr. Mark Abney, a UGA research and extension entomologist, presented the topic on inset populations and management for peanuts. He grouped those insets to either foliage feeders or soil insects and discussed how these insects can be managed and what tour participants may see during the tour. The next topic was on diseases and nematodes management and was presented by Drs. Kemerait, Brenneman and Culbreath from the UGA Plant Pathology Department. They first discussed how diseases and nematodes affecting peanut plants and introduced the 5 foundations (develop resistant varieties, crop rotation, remove volunteer peanuts from field, practice field sanitation, and judicious use of fungicides) to address these issues in general plus specific suggestions on what and how to manage 5 major (tomato spotted wilt, *Aspergillus* crown rot, “Early” and “Late” leaf spot diseases, “White Mold”, and peanut root-knot nematodes) plus 1 (aflatoxin) peanut disease problems. The final speaker, Dr. Scott Monfort, a UGA extension peanut agronomist gave a presentation on peanut maturity. What and why peanut maturity is important and how maturity can be measured was presented.