

Project Title: **University of Georgia Agronomic Research and Extension Programs to Address Economic Sustainability of Peanut Production (2023-2024)**

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Agronomic Research and Extension Activities

Agronomic Research: Multiple research trials were conducted to continue to assess the yield and quality impacts of row spacing, seeding rate, planting dates, tillage practices, harvest date, and varietal resistance to TSWV. Trials were conducted on the Tifton campus (Ponder, ABAC, & RDC), on grower fields, and at the Midville Research Station. Twenty-five plus trials were conducted evaluating Cultivar performance, impacts of agronomic practices (tillage, twin/single row, planting date, and harvest date), growth regulators, biologicals products, and seed storage trials. Yields across the state were down 500-1000 lbs/A in a majority of our irrigated cultivar trials with TifNV-HG, GA-12Y, GA-22MPR, Arnie, and GA 21GR out-performing Georgia-06G in overall yield and quality where we had TSWV. In trials where TSWV was minimal, GA-06G was one of the top yield varieties. The Dryland trial was severely impacted by the weather with most cultivars barely making over a ton of peanut/A for the 2nd year in a row. Georgia-20VHO still had issues with pod shedding with GA-18RU having significant TSWV and Leafspot issues. CB7 looked very good as an early or late planted cultivar with its higher level of disease resistance.

Extension Field Demonstration Program: An extensive on-farm field demonstration program for peanuts is conducted each year by the University of Georgia Extension Peanut Team in cooperation with county extension agents. The focus of these on-farm demonstrations is increased profitability through production management. The on-farm trials in 2024 consisted of 18 variety trials in Colquitt, Berrien, Bulloch, Early, Grady, Jeff Davis, Pulaski, Tattnall, Mitchell, Miller, Ben Hill, Terrell, Webster, Berrien, Cook, and Counties, and biological stimulant trials conducted on-farm in Bulloch and Colquitt counties. The results of the variety trials have indicated several of the newer varieties are similar in productivity and quality as Georgia-06G with TifNV-HG, FloRun-52N, Georgia-21GR, CB7, Arnie, GA-21GR, GA-22MPR showing great potential to become some of the more dominant cultivars. Overall, grades were better than 2023 but yield were even lower in 2024 across the state due to the weather.

Peanut Industry and Extension Support: The funding support for expenses was utilized to attend and present my peanut research at APRES and National/Regional Agronomy meetings along with multiple national peanut update presentations at several national industry meetings. These funds have also supported my travel throughout Georgia in order to help county agents and growers with peanut related issues. I made over 120 county visits throughout the season and made more than 70 presentations in 2024. I made over 40 field visits due to stand issues and TSWV alone due to the low vigor seed and excessively cold temps in May and June. GA planted less than 25% of crop before May 10th with very little acreage planted in mid-to late May due to rains. I estimate more than 50% of crop was planted/replanted after May 25th. This led to a much later crop than usual with state average yield being the lowest in the last 20 years.

Dissemination of Information: The information compiled through the many research and extension faculty is disseminated through several agent training, research field days and field visits throughout the year. The research results and recommendations are also provided through publications like the peanut update and the UGA peanut team website. We are continuing to update our Web pages and peanut publications so that growers can have the most up to date information. The UGA Peanut Team started a Podcast in 2024 and had over 42 episodes reaching more than 15,000 people or about ~300+ people per episodes.