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Georgia Grain News-Rome Ethredge

This week (this was written October 20) in the field we are seeing some red banded stinkbugs and disease still affecting ultra late soybeans, having soybean questions concerning desiccation and irrigation in final days.

Late Corn after corn has some worms, stink bugs and some disease. Milo has continued anthracnose problems on leaves and heads, more about that from Dr Martinez below.

Here's the soybean water requirement per week chart in the UGA Soybean production Guide by Dr. Wes Porter.

Figure 1. The weekly water requirement for soybeans.

Table 18. Weekly water requirement for soybeans.

Physiological Stage	Weeks After Planting	Average Weekly Water Requirement (Inches)	Average Daily Water Requirement (Inches)
Stand Establishment	1	0.15	0.02
Stand Establishment-VE	2	0.50	0.08
VE – VC	3	0.65	0.09
VC – V2	4	0.75	0.11
V2 – V4	5	0.90	0.13
V4 – V5	6	1.10	0.15
R1 – R2	7	1.20	0.17
R2 – R3	8	1.30	0.18
R3 – R4	9	1.35	0.19
R4 – R5	10	1.40	0.20
R4 – R5	11	1.45	0.21
R5 – R6	12	1.50	0.22
R5 – R6	13	1.45	0.21
R5 – R6	14	1.40	0.20
R6 – R7	15	1.35	0.19
R7 – R8	16	1.20	0.17
R8 – Maturity	17	0.80	0.12

Milo Disease

We are seeing a continued bad year for anthracnose disease in Milo. Now seeing some move to the grain head. Fungicide applications are helping the situation.

Here's some comments by Dr. Alfredo Martinez, UGA Plant Pathologist, concerning this disease : **Anthracnose can attack all aerial parts** (leaves, sheath, stalk panicle and seed) and can cause severe epidemics, reducing grain yields of 50% and more. Anthracnose can be severe after extended periods of cloudy, humid and wet weather, especially when these conditions occur during early grain-filling periods. Most common and economical control for anthracnose is the use of resistant A 2-year rotation with plant species other than sorghum and/or corn will help to minimize the amount of inoculum in the field.

Clean cultivation, elimination of probable weed hosts (e.g. Johnsongrass) and enhancement of the conditions that hasten decomposition of host residue also help to control the disease. Fungicides are also helpful “





Dr. Martinez says we also “Might want to be on the look out for **“grain mold” in sorghum**.....Grain/head mold can be caused by a variety of fungi among others by Fusarium, Alternaria, Curvularia Bipolaris etc. Organisms that infect plants from flowering to maturity, depending on high moisture conditions.....Grain mold is more likely to occur when high moisture conditions are present near harvest time and when normal harvest is delayed. Infection levels depend on variety, time of flowering, maturity and soil conditions. Periods of high humidity when the panicle is out can be very detrimental and infection-leading conditions. Management can be based on adjustment of planting date, variety selection, use of resistant varieties (generally sorghums with dense, compact heads are more prone to attack than are varieties with loose, open heads) etc. Maintain balanced fertility to ensure sturdy plants; Avoidance of excessive plant population reduces stressful competition for moisture and nutrients.

Elimination of volunteer plants (they can harbor inoculum. Weed control is important as weeds compete for water and nutrients; johnsongrass management greatly limits disease incidence. “

Milo aka Grain Sorghum has a place on many farms

Milo can be planted up to July but yields can get lower the later we get. This may be a good choice for folks for replanting on failed dryland corn fields. Later plantings can have more bird predation problems at harvest time. Yields vary a good bit but we can often get 60 Bushels per acre on dryland. Here's a link to a good publication about growing it. <https://site.extension.uga.edu/worthag/files/2019/03/Georgia-Grain-Sorghum-Production-Quick-Guide.pdf>

Hers a link to UGA Budgets for grain sorghum production
<https://agecon.uga.edu/extension/budgets.html>

One problem with it can be the marketing, so make sure you can sell it easily before planting. It often follows corn price, getting 90% of corn price per bushel is common. There are often local markets that can be for wildlife and livestock feeding.

The main pest problem is White Sugarcane Aphid, which needs to be scouted for, but with resistant varieties this is much less of a problem. Midge at first heading is a problem too, at times. One thing I really like about growing milo in pigweed fields is the ability to use atrazine herbicide there to help with that problem.

Here's an excerpt and a Link to an article I wrote about Milo, the dog and milo the crop, <https://www.growingamerica.com/features/2019/04/whether-he-sleeps-or-gets-seed-sprouts-and-grows>



Whether He Sleeps or Gets Up, the Seed Sprouts and Grows

By: Rome Ethredge, Growing America

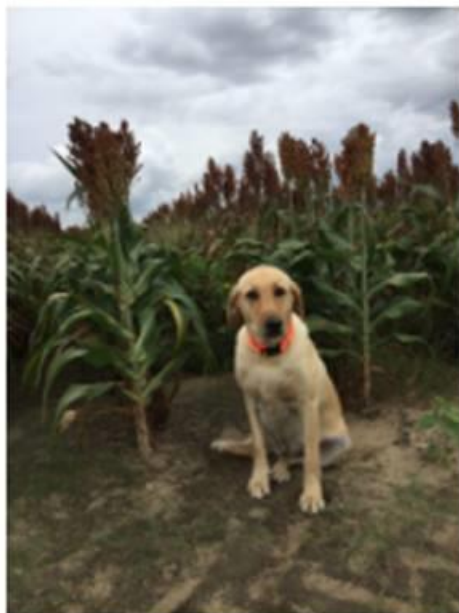
Posted: April 30, 2019

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Milo, the farm dog in the Milo field

I lived in West Africa for a few years. They grew lots of grain sorghum to make into mush or porridge, which they ate sometimes twice daily. Grain sorghum was thought to have originally come from Africa, it goes by many names around the world. In the US, most often known as milo. They called it sorgho where we lived in Togo. There was very little irrigation there and sorghum is very drought tolerant.

Sorghum lacks gluten, so it's not too good for making bread by itself. When mixed with other grains it does well. Sometimes in the bush in Africa, we would come across a partially hidden grass thatch roof shelter. There would be cook pots and bottles around. There, milo was being used to make a reddish malt beer called Dolo.

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How Late Season Temperatures affect peanut maturity and decisions on when to dig – Scott Monfort

There is a misconception that temperatures in the upper 40's and lower 50's shut down the plant. Those temperatures will slow the maturation down but it will not cause it to stop.

The "normal" minimum temperature at Tifton is 61 degrees on October 1st and 51 degrees on November 1st.

If there is a risk of a frost/freeze the best thing to do is leave the peanuts in the ground. They are insulated in the ground.

Inverted peanuts less than 48 hrs before a frost or freeze --- there is a high risk for frost damage.

Inverted greater than 48 hrs before a frost or freeze --- less risk of Frost damage. Please call me if you need any help or have questions.

Typically, minimum temperatures in the upper 30's and lower 40's happen around the third week of October.

Temperatures in the lower 40's and lower for several mornings in a row will cause the plants to shut down and further development and maturation is over. The northern growing areas are likely to see several days in the 30's and low 40's the end of the week and first part of next week. In these areas the peanuts may not mature further. The question is what do I need to do.

If you are in these areas, a grower could go ahead and dig 2-3 days ahead of the low temperatures/frost or wait until after the cold temps have passed and then dig. Either way they should be okay. Other places in the state can leave them and let them continue to slowly mature. All of which is really dependent on the health of the vines and disease pressure.

Defoliation Considerations-November 1, 2021-Camp Hand

There are a few things I believe we should be thinking about for the next few weeks:

First, this week it's gonna be cool. Once we get past Wednesday, highs hardly come out of the 60s and lows are going to be in the 30s to 40s. As we all know, cotton growth and development is based on DD60s, with growth occurring mainly between temperatures of 60 to 94 degrees F. Once temperatures get below 60, cotton growth and development are minimal. This is important to keep in mind when considering when to defoliate.

Not only does the temperature impact crop growth and development, but as I have harped on throughout these emails, it also affects product efficacy. This week, I would probably take Dropp out of the mix. Below 65 F you don't get much out of it. Increased rates of Folex will be necessary (right around a pint/acre), and then I would go with the highest labeled rate of Prep. As mentioned in the last email, I am a big fan of what I have seen out of Ginstar and would consider that as an option as well. Surfactants will likely increase uptake and efficacy in cooler situations like we are seeing, so I would consider adding one to the mix.

Another thing we need to start thinking about is first frost dates. In my opinion, we need to be ahead of the first frost to get as much benefit as possible out of our defoliant. Generally, you want to defoliate 2 to 3 days ahead of a frost to get those defoliant working before the plant shuts down. I looked at a few locations on the UGA Weather Monitoring Network to get averages on first frost dates for what I consider fairly representative locations across the state:

SW GA – November 29 (Tifton)

SE GA – November 20 (Statesboro)

NE GA – November 12 (Watkinsville)

NW GA – November 3 (Rome)

Keep in mind that these are averages over the past 17 years meaning it could be earlier or later, just depends on the year.

I have had a couple of conversations with agents and consultants this week about when our crop is "done". In my mind, we are quickly approaching the point at which we aren't gaining much by leaving the leaves on our cotton crop. Even if it is a late planted crop and only 30 to 40% open, I would consider trying to spray it this week. I know for many that logistically may not be possible as most folks are still finishing up peanuts, but as mentioned earlier, you want to defoliate when you are still getting activity out of your defoliant.

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