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Seminole Crop News

Summer Annual Forages

May 8, 2014

Summer Annual Forages

This time of year, we often get questions about what type of summer annual forages to plant. Warm season annual grasses are established from seed and are productive during spring and summer.

Here's a good article about it by Jeremy Kichler, Colquitt County Agent.

Plantings of warm season annual grasses can be made in the spring as soon as the soil temperature (at a two inch depth) warms to 65° F and can be planted as late as July without a yield penalty. Seed can be broadcast or drilled in narrow (more than 15 inches) or wide (up to 36 inches) rows. Seed should be planted at a soil depth of 1/2 to one inch. Ideally, summer annual grasses should be established on well-drained, fertile soils with good water-holding capacity. Higher seeding rates may help to decrease stem size, but it is unlikely that this will be valuable enough to compensate for the expense of the higher seeding rate. Below is a table that shows planting dates and seeding rates for summer annual grasses.

New varieties of warm-season annual grasses are released periodically, so it is important to examine the yield comparison trials in UGA's Statewide Variety Testing Program (<http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/swvt/>).

Pearl millet can be grazed or harvested as hay or silage. Growers can begin to graze pearl millet when plants reach 20 to 24 inches, but regrowth rate and animal performance is best if a nine to 12 inches stubble height is maintained. Pearl millet can make good quality hay if cut when plants reach two to three feet tall. This prevents the forage from maturing beyond the boot stage and therefore being too mature to provide high quality. The drying rate of millet hay can be sped up by the use of a roller/crimper-style conditioner.

If harvested prior to advanced maturity stages, the range of total digestible nutrients (TDN) can be expected to be 52 to 58 percent, while crude protein (CP) will range from eight to 11 percent. There is some evidence to suggest that seeding rates at the high end of the recommended ranges will promote a higher leaf:stem ratio. This may improve forage quality, but these gains may not compensate for the expense of the higher seeding rate.

Since pearl millet does not produce prussic acid, this species has a distinct advantage over sorghum, sudangrass, and sorghum x sudangrass hybrids. This allows pearl millets to be grazed or harvested at any growth stage and during droughts without the risks associated with prussic acid poisoning. However, pearl millets can have high nitrate levels.

Hybrids of forage sorghum and sudangrass are commonly grown as a warm season annual crop in Georgia. These hybrids have the highest yield potential of any of the summer annuals, if adequate rainfall is received or irrigation is provided. However, sorghum x sudan yields are more severely affected by drought than pearl millet, and are less tolerant of poor soil conditions and soil pH values less than 5.8. Sorghum x sudans can be used for grazing or silage, but like other annual sorghums, their forage is difficult to dry to moistures suitable for hay production.

Sorghum x sudan hybrids should be rotationally grazed, allowing the forage to reach 24 inches before grazing (i.e., managed like sudangrass). At this stage, sorghum x sudans will generally have TDN values in excess of 53 to 60 percent and CP concentrations of nine to 15 percent. Brown midrib (BMR) varieties are usually preferred varieties for grazing since they have less lignin and higher digestibility than other varieties.

Photoperiod-sensitive sorghum x sudan and forage sorghum cultivars are available. These varieties are capable of sustaining more consistent growth over a longer growing season because they remain in a vegetative stage late into September (until daylength is less than about 12 hours and 20 minutes). This trait may negate or lessen the need for staggered plantings.

Here's a link to more forages info.

<http://www.secattleadvisor.com/2014/05/06/picking-a-summer-annual-forage>

WPS or Worker Protection Standard

May 8, 2014



We recently had trainings for Agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. If you missed these trainings you can watch the following training video to comply with the training requirement.

There are also links to the recordkeeping booklet and other publications .

This is the link to the English Version of the Worker Protection Standard Training video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArfBQvs_zLE

This is the link to the Spanish version of the WPS Training Video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5PhWL0kRBw>

These videos have to be viewed every five years by workers.

This is the link to the printable version of the USDA recordkeeping manual

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRD3342981>

It has all of the WPS record keeping requirements listed in it.

This is the link to the How to Comply with WPS manual <http://www.epa.gov/oecaagct/epa-735-b-05-002.pdf>

Thanks to Eric Olsen and Bill Baker of the Ga Department of Agriculture and Consultant Mark Mitchell for assistance with this.

Thrips on Peanuts

May 8, 2014

We are wondering about thrips for 2014? Last year, 2013, was the worst year I have ever seen for late thrips. I was looking at some volunteer peanuts yesterday and they had a lot on them, but keep in mind this plant has zero thrips control. Here's a photo I took.



UGA Extension entomologist, Mark Abney has this report on thrips.

The big question for insects in May is what thrips populations will do over the next few weeks. After a cool wet spring in 2013 that saw much higher than normal tobacco thrips pressure in peanut, folks are understandably concerned that 2014 could be a repeat of last year.

We are currently monitoring thrips dispersal using sticky traps at six locations in South Georgia (Tift, Worth, Mitchell, Decatur, Brooks, and Colquitt Counties). Traps have been in the field since mid-March, and captures have been low. We did see a slight uptick in thrips numbers the last week in April; this increase corresponded with the predicted time of dispersal of third generation tobacco thrips.

It is still too early to predict the size of the fourth generation of thrips that could infest peanut in the latter half of May. Growers will need to keep a close eye on fields to determine the level of thrips activity and make appropriate management decisions.

Thrips trap capture data are posted each week on a new UGA Peanut Entomology blog that can be found at <http://blog.extension.uga.edu/peanutent/>. Traps are collected on Wednesday, and data are posted the following Thursday.

UGA Ag Climatologist – El Nino Update

May 8, 2014



Rainfall Calculator

Choose weather station -

From:

To:

From Apr-1	To Apr-30	Total Precipitation [in]	Number of Rainy Days
2014	2014	15.76	10
2013	2013	N/A	N/A
2012	2012	1.41	6
2011	2011	2.30	6
1961	1990	3.98	N/A
1971	2000	3.71	N/A

Record wet April here with 15.76 inches compared to our average 3.9 inches. Last year's doesn't show up on this chart but it was 3.83 inches.

Here's the El Nino Update by UGA Ag climatologist Pam Knox.

The warm pool of water in the equatorial Pacific Ocean continues to move eastward, increasing chances for an El Nino to develop later this summer into fall. In winter, El Nino causes wet and cool conditions in south Georgia as the subtropical jet stream shifts right over the state, bringing clouds and plentiful precipitation with it. El Nino impacts in summer are more subtle and the summer weather patterns tend to be dominated by local storms rather than large-scale weather patterns.

However, we know that Atlantic hurricanes are less likely in El Nino autumns, which could be good news for farmers trying to get into their fields in fall to harvest peanuts, since with fewer storms we may experience drier conditions. By comparison, tropical activity in the eastern Pacific Ocean is enhanced. And sure enough, there is already some unsettled weather occurring there which might turn into the earliest eastern Pacific named storm ever if it pulls itself together.

Meanwhile, the wet spring, coupled with recurring cold fronts, have kept soil conditions far from ideal for planting. With the warm and sunny weather this past week, however, farmers should be taking advantage of better conditions to get out into the fields and get things done.

Looking ahead, warmer and wetter than usual conditions are predicted to return May 12-16, with near normal conditions May 16-20. As a whole, May is expected to be near normal in temperature and precipitation, and the summer has an increased chance of warmer than normal temperatures based on long-term trends. There is no skill in predicting summer rainfall this year and there are equal chances for near, above and below normal precipitation.

Packing Rains after Planting

May 8, 2014

Packing rains of 4 to 5 inches after planting are not a good thing. Then the sun came out and it got hot and we are seeing a good bit of soil crusting and hardness.

Cotton can't stand much of this and some will have to be replanted. Some was rotary hoed in time and the jury is still out on it. It was impossible to run a rotary hoe in many fields due to wetness. This seedling can't come through the crust and is just swelling and some are breaking off.



A few are popping through in this field but many can't make it through the crust.

Here's an excerpt from the UGA Cotton Production guide concerning cotton emergence.

With good soil moisture and warm temperatures at planting, seedlings usually begin to emerge in 5 to 7 days with full stand in 8 to 11 days, but can be delayed or complicated by seedling diseases or rapid moisture depletion.

Physical hazards to establishing stands that occasionally occur during this period include hard soil crusts and blowing sand. The adverse effects of both can be greatly reduced with rotary hoe or rolling cultivator operations. These implements should be operated just deep enough to break the crust. An irrigation of 0.3 to 0.5 inches can be used to soften or weaken a crust and accomplish the same objective.

Timing this operation is critical. If a hard crust is evident when the seed root is 0.6 to 0.75 inches long, it should be broken immediately, being careful not to completely uproot more than 20 to 25 percent of the seedlings. Soil crust strength can be measured with a small pocket penetrometer. Emergence decreases rapidly at soil strengths above 10 psi especially when cotton is planted deeper than 1 inch.

Peanuts Pushing Through

May 8, 2014

Peanuts that were planted ahead of recent packing rains are pushing through.

Some in the bottoms that got covered with water are slow to emerge, and on the clay galls they are having trouble.





Question of the Week – Bladderwort

May 8, 2014

Last week I had a photo of an aquatic weed that is carnivorous!!! Bladderwort.

It tried to bite my hand!... No it doesn't bite people, but it does trap and digest tiny insects in the bladders that you can see in the photos.



This week I want to ask about this bird we saw on Lake Seminole near the bladderwort. I got this photo as it was landing. What is it?



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Later,

Rome

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