

# 2010-2010 SMALL GRAIN PERFORMANCE TESTS

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## The Season

Georgia farmers in the fall of 2009, for the first time in a decade, faced adequate soil moistures for the small grain planting season. Rain continued through the fall with Hurricane Ida dropping excessive amounts around September 10<sup>th</sup>. With the hindrance of wet fields, land preparation and planting of small grain was delayed or not planted. Georgia wheat producers seeded 200 thousand acres of wheat during the 2009-2010 crop year, a decrease of 170,000 acres or 46% less than the previous year. Rye producers seeded 190,000 acres, 5% less than last year; oat acreage also decreased 29% totaling 50,000 acres.

Rainfall amounts recorded monthly at the five test locations in Georgia and at Marianna, FL during the 2009-2010 growing season are presented in the following table. At all locations across the state rainfall amounts were well above normal for the nine month reporting period. The abundant rainfall occurred during prime small grain planting time, but wet soil and cold conditions lingered during the growing season. The area around Plains received almost 16 inches more rain than normal (43.4%), while across the state the average was 30.0% above normal.

### 2009-2010 Rainfall<sup>1</sup>

Month	Year	Calhoun <sup>2</sup>	Griffin	Midville	Plains	Tifton	Marianna, FL <sup>3</sup>
----- inches -----							
October	2009	9.65	9.22	3.68	5.46	4.01	3.39
November	2009	4.72	5.89	4.31	2.65	2.64	2.35
December	2009	7.39	9.81	9.01	14.10	7.58	9.57
January	2010	4.99	4.73	6.76	10.09	6.65	7.53
February	2010	4.06	4.12	2.82	3.36	3.36	3.99
March	2010	4.50	5.67	2.71	3.61	2.82	3.41
April	2010	4.73	2.33	1.82	1.95	4.36	4.04
May	2010	4.39	4.99	3.21	5.99	5.96	5.06
June	2010	2.07	1.52	4.83	4.72	5.09	2.93
Total (9 months)		46.50	48.28	39.15	51.93	42.47	42.27
Normal (9 months)		42.15	37.96	32.13	36.21	33.45	38.70

1. Data for Georgia sites collected by Dr. G. Hoogenboom, Griffin Campus, Griffin, GA.
2. Floyd County location.
3. University of Florida North Florida Research and Education Center location.

Georgia farmers seeded less small grain in 2009-2010 than in many years (1978), only 56% as much as 2009, and many did not plant due to the wet soil conditions. The small grain that did get planted was severely affected from soil compaction and water logging. Along with the wet conditions the weather remained cold throughout the small grain growing season delaying plant tillering and jointing. Hessian fly pressure was not a problem because of the late planting date, but powdery mildew was a concern for some farmers due to the moist growing conditions.

Wheat yield for the 2010 Georgia crop was 40 bushels per acre yield, down 7% from last year's bushels per acre. There was a total of 145,000 acres of wheat grain harvested this year, 125,000 acres or 46% less than 2009, which produced only 5.8 million bushels (along with 2006, the least production in 32 years). Fifteen thousand acres of oats were harvested in 2010, which is a decrease of 50%. Twenty-five thousand acres of rye were harvested for grain, an equivalent to last year's production. Rye production in Georgia is primarily for forage and a cover crop.