

2004 Corn Performance Tests

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The Season

The 2004 corn season was favorable for grain production. After a dry spring hindered planting in some areas, normal or above rainfall throughout maintained a majority of the crop in fair to good condition. However, some areas did experience periods of drought. Favorable temperatures and adequate moisture resulted in a very good crop state wide. Wind damage after late June rains was reported in some areas. Most of the crop was harvested before three major tropical storms (hurricanes Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne) swept through Georgia in September.

Temperature and humidity conditions in late June and through July were less favorable for rust and southern corn leaf blight development. Stink bugs were damaging in some areas but corn earworm pressure was less than normal.

Rainfall for the season averaged 4 inches above long term 8-month averages at the six Georgia corn variety test locations as listed below. Only one location, Calhoun, received less than normal rainfall for the 8-month reporting period. During some months rainfall far exceeded the normal; i.e., Tifton during September received 11.59 inches above normal.

Growing Season Rainfall¹, 2004

| Month | Blairsville | Calhoun ² | Griffin | Midville | Plains | Tifton |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| | ----- inches ----- | | | | | |
| February | 3.80 | 4.76 | 4.64 | 7.82 | 5.76 | 7.47 |
| March | 2.84 | 4.04 | 0.83 | 0.37 | 0.21 | 0.42 |
| April | 5.74 | 2.71 | 2.42 | 2.21 | 2.41 | 3.98 |
| May | 4.71 | 6.18 | 3.41 | 2.37 | 1.84 | 2.32 |
| June | 5.18 | 4.59 | 8.38 | 7.33 | 8.32 | 11.25 |
| July | 3.11 | 5.33 | 3.29 | 2.68 | 3.85 | 2.30 |
| August | 5.11 | 2.70 | 4.24 | 8.11 | 5.15 | 2.14 |
| September | 11.15 | 3.82 | 12.80 | 9.05 | 12.30 | 14.58 |
| <i>Total (8 mo)</i> | 41.64 | 34.13 | 40.01 | 39.94 | 39.84 | 44.46 |
| <i>Normal (8 mo)*</i> | 38.78 | 38.04 | 35.42 | 32.79 | 34.48 | 34.01 |

1. Data submitted by Dr. G. Hoogenboom, Georgia Station, Griffin, GA.

2. Floyd County location.

* Based on 42-year average.

Maturity and harvest proceeded at a normal pace during the season. Of the 330,000 planted acres (down some from 2003), 280,000 were harvested at an estimated 130 bushels per acre (134 in 2001) for a 36.4 million bushel crop or 1 percent decrease from 2003.