

Agronomy Notes

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Corn Price Rises - Should I Plant this Summer?

Corn prices are at a historic high and going higher weekly due to the use of corn for ethanol and the floods in the mid west. Farmers are asking if they can plant corn into July and still make a decent yield. We have many years of research showing that corn can be planted into July if it is a *Bt* hybrid and if it has good disease tolerance to the main corn diseases.

Corn seed was in short supply earlier in the year so the better hybrids may be gone. Yields are normally reduced after the recommended planted date of February 15 to April 15. The main causes of yield reduction are insects and diseases. Check variety trial information on hybrids grown near your farm before you make the decision to plant that late and set a cutoff date of July 15-20 for corn planted for grain. Length of growing season is not usually an issue until corn is planted into August and then test weights can be reduced from filling out kernels in cold weather.

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Critical Management Decisions for Cotton

July is a critical month for many management decisions in cotton in the Deep South. Layby application of herbicides, N applications, controlling growth with growth regulators, and irrigating to set a good boll load are all part of needed management decisions. Rainfall has been very erratic with some areas having adequate rainfall and nearby areas remaining dry. Growers will have to scout each field to determine the needs of the crop due to the spotty rains. The increase in acreage of corn and wheat has also brought an increase in the numbers of stinkbugs and foliage feeding insects.

It will be very important to scout cotton fields that are near corn as it is drying down.

Stinkbugs will be moving out of the corn into cotton fields. Stinkbug feeding can result in boll shed at an early stage or boll damage that can reduce picked yield by almost 100%. Likewise, those fields that typically have had high hardlock damage can be sprayed with fungicide and insecticide during bloom on a two week schedule to reduce the amount of hardlock. Headline has a label for controlling hardlock but will also reduce foliar diseases in those fields that have a history of early defoliation and hardlock. Topsin M fungicide can still be used through late July if more than two treatments of fungicides are to be used. As with all treatments, split fields or leave check strips with and without treatments to see if they are of benefit in your operation.

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“Agronomy Notes” is prepared by: J.M. Bennett, Chairman and Yoana Newman, Extension Forage Specialist (ycnew@ufl.edu); J. Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist (jferrell@ufl.edu); F.M. Fishel, Pesticide Coordinator (weeddr@ifas.ufl.edu); James J. Marois, Plant Pathologist (jmarois@ufl.edu); and D.L. Wright, Extension Agronomist (dlw@ifas.ufl.edu). Designed by Cynthia Hight (chight@ufl.edu.) The use of trade names does not constitute a guarantee or warrant of products named and does not signify approval to the exclusion of similar products.

Bahiagrass Seeding Rate

How much seed should one use when planting bahiagrass? Does it matter which cultivar you use? Under Florida sandy soil conditions, lower seeding rates of 10 to 20 lb/ac are likely to produce low stand coverage during the first year compared with rates of 30 to 35 lb/ac. At lower seeding rates, weed invasion is an issue specifically with cultivars like Argentine that have a more “crawling” or “flat” growth compared to Pensacola, Tifton 9, or UF-Riata. In the case of Argentine, weeds tend to invade when lower seeding rates are used because of the lower height of Argentine bahiagrass. The cost of a higher seeding rate is offset by the more mechanical control you will need when using less seed. Keep in mind that bahiagrass should not be sprayed for weed control before plants are 6 inches tall, otherwise severe scorching will occur. A good seedbed preparation, adequate moisture, and rates between 30 to 35 lb/ac should guarantee a good stand of bahiagrass.

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Perennial Peanut Hay for Horses



A farmer stands with a recent bale of perennial peanut.

Photo: Yoana Newman

Perennial peanut is a perennial warm-season legume that has all the attributes sought-after in legume forage. Its digestibility is similar to ‘Alfalfa’ with stem digestibility shown to be equal or higher than alfalfa stems. The leaves of perennial peanut are similar to those of edible peanut but smaller, also, perennial peanut will not produce the nut or ‘peanut’. It is mainly all foliage, palatable to horses.

It is a very high quality feed that suits animals with high nutrition requirements such as lactating mares or performance horses.

It is not for all types of animals; mature horses tend to gain excess weight in full feeding on Perennial Peanut. Because of its richness, a note of caution is to avoid overconsumption by horses when switching from low quality. Perennial peanut can be grown as a monoculture or mixed with warm-season perennial grasses, in which case, just like alfalfa, the hay will be of lower quality. If other states had Florida’s climate and soil conditions, perennial peanut would be the forage of choice and it would dethrone ‘alfalfa’ as the queen of forages.

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Update of Asian Soybean Rust

With a little more normal rainfall in 2008, soybean rust has started popping up on kudzu in north Florida. The web site <http://www.usda.gov/soybeanrust/> is devoted to rust updates and has the latest information from all states. In the third week of June, soybean rust was found on soybeans for the first time in 2008 in a field in Gadsden County that was being monitored for various diseases. The disease does not normally affect soybeans until it starts blooming or later. However, the bloom period can be within 20-40 days of planting depending on planting date, maturity group of the soybean and environmental conditions. Counties will be notified as the disease appears in their counties. Fungicides will control the disease and one timely fungicide is usually all that is needed if timed correctly. Many growers apply fungicides after pods begin to form on the plants. Keep fields scouted and apply fungicides when needed for all diseases. Most applications of fungicides are made in late July or August, under normal circumstances, during the bloom and pod fill stages of growth.

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Calendar Dates

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| July 7-11 | 2008 American Society of Animal Sciences and American Society of Dairy Science Annual Meeting. Indianapolis, IN |
| July 14-17 | Southern Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference
Paramount Plaza hotel & Conf. Center, Gainesville, FL |
| July 13-17 | Caribbean Food Crops Society Meeting
Miami, FL ~ Hosted by UF/IFAS |
| July 13-15 | Southern Peanut Growers Conference
Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City Beach, FL |
| Aug. 20-21 | Forage Workers
Marion County Extension Office, Ocala, FL |
| Oct. 14 | Sunbelt Ag Expo
Moultrie, GA |
| Nov. 5 | 2008 Florida Ag Expo
Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Balm, FL
Visit http://glafexpo.ifas.ufl.edu or call Christine Cooley (813) 634-0000 x 3101 ccooley@ufl.edu |
| Nov. 11-14 | Methyl Bromide Alternatives Conference
Orlando, FL, http://mbao.org/ |

Understanding Pesticide Label First Aid Statements and Handling an Emergency



Consider the following scenario: A co-worker has accidentally ingested a small amount of concentrated pesticide from a splash that occurred while pouring the concentrate into the sprayer's tank. What are do you do?

- ◇ Give the person water to drink?
- ◇ Help your co-worker induce vomiting?
- ◇ Other

Properly treating a victim who has been orally exposed to a pesticide is a serious situation. Check the Pesticide Label for first aid statements.

The pesticide label's first aid statements contain valuable information regarding treatment of victims subjected to pesticide exposure from all major routes of entry into the body, including ocular, oral, dermal, and inhalation.

A first aid statement is required when any acute toxicity study result is classified as Category I, II, or III. Although not required, it is acceptable for a pesticide manufacturer to include first aid statements on product labels for which studies have shown to be classified as Category IV. The statements will appear under one of the following headings: "First Aid" or "Statements of Practical Treatment." If the product is classified as toxicity Category I, the statement must appear on the label's front panel. Products classified as toxicity Categories II and III may have their first aid statements on any panel of the product's label. However, if they don't appear on the front panel, a referral statement such as "see side/back panel for first aid" should appear on the front panel in close proximity to the signal word. First aid statements are organized so that the most severe routes of exposure, as shown with the toxicity classification, are listed first.

Table 1. Acute toxicity measures and warnings.

Category	Signal word	Oral LD ₅₀ mg/kg	Dermal LD ₅₀ mg/kg	Inhalation LC ₅₀ mg/l	Oral lethal dose*
I Highly toxic	DANGER, POISON (skull and cross-bones)	0 to 50	0 to 200	0 to 0.2	A few drops to a teaspoon
II Moderately toxic	WARNING	50 to 500	200 to 2,000	0.2 to 2.0	Over a tea-spoon to one ounce
III Slightly toxic	CAUTION	500 to 5,000	2,000 to 20,000	2.0 to 20.0	Over one ounce to one pint
IV Relatively non-toxic	CAUTION (or no signal word)	5,000+	20,000+	20+	Over one pint to one pound

*Probable for a 150-pound person.

Whenever a person has to be taken to an emergency facility due to a pesticide exposure, always take along the product label.

FIRST AID	
IF SWALLOWED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call a poison control center or doctor immediately for treatment advice.• Have person sip a glass of water if able to swallow.• Do not induce vomiting unless told to do so by a poison control center or doctor.• Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.
IF IN EYES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15 to 20 minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye.• Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.
IF ON SKIN OR CLOTHING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take off contaminated clothing.• Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15 to 20 minutes.• Call a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.
In case of emergency call toll free the Bayer CropScience Emergency Response Telephone No. 1-800-334-7577. Have a product container or label with you when calling a poison control center or doctor, or going for treatment.	
Note To Physician: No specific antidote is available. Treat the patient symptomatically.	

Found on the label, the note to physicians provides detailed instructions for treating an exposure victim. It is found on labels of:

- ⇒ All products that are classified as toxicity Category I.
- ⇒ Products which are corrosive or classified as toxicity Category I for eye or skin. These products will contain the following note to physician: “Probable mucosal damage may contraindicate the use of gastric lavage.”
- ⇒ Products which contain at least 10% petroleum distillate will have a note to physician such as: “Contains petroleum distillate. Vomiting may cause aspiration pneumonia.”
- ⇒ Products which produce physiological effects requiring specific antidotal or medical treatment such as: cholinesterase inhibitors, metabolic stimulants, and anticoagulants.

The note to the physician is located in close proximity to the first aid statements; but, it is clearly distinguished from it. It is not placed within the first aid statements, but appears below the first aid statements.

The chances are slim that you or one of your co-workers will ever be a victim of pesticide exposure. But, that doesn't mean you shouldn't know what to do in such an event. You'll never learn all of the first aid instructions and signal words found on all product labels. *The important message is to be familiar with those products that you use and to keep those labels nearby in case of such an emergency.*

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Maverick Herbicide for Pastures

For many years, Monsanto has been preparing to register Maverick (sulfusulfuron) for use on pastures. There have been many roadblocks along the way, but it seems as if registration is only a few months away.

Maverick herbicide will likely be registered for use in both bermudagrass and bahiagrass. The key weed for this herbicide is sedeges of all types: yellow, purple, and kyllinga. Maverick is possibly the best herbicide currently available for control of sedges. Indications are that Maverick will be labeled for “at establishment” in bermudagrass and after establishment in bahiagrass. Additionally, there are no injury issues associated with Maverick applications to bermudagrass or established bahiagrass as with Plateau or Journey.

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