



Lee County Ag Newsletter

Third Week of July 2023, Volume 23, Number 7

Pecan Update Date Changed-Doug Collins

The Lee County Pecan Update will be held on Wednesday, August 2 (one day earlier than originally scheduled due to a scheduling conflict.) The meeting will be a t noon. A sponsored meal will be served. Dr. Lenny Wells, UGA Extension Pecan Specialist will give us an update on what he is seeing in the field.

Weather and Climate Outlook for July

- Pam Knox, Agricultural Climatologist

Welcome to the dog days of summer, which runs from roughly July 3 to August 11. It has nothing to do with dogs but with the rising of Sirius (the Dog Star) in the east each morning, and coincides with the hottest time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. As expected, hot and humid conditions are occurring here in Georgia now and are expected to continue for the next few weeks. The hottest conditions may occur in the next week or two but we are likely to return to more moderate (for summer) conditions later in the month. Precipitation is expected to be mainly from scattered thunderstorms throughout the month, with wetter conditions occurring in the next week or two due to the circulation around the high pressure centered over Texas and drier conditions occurring later in the month, especially in southwest Georgia. Some of the thunderstorms will have strong winds and hail associated with them, so scattered crop damage could occur from these storms.

The tropics are typically pretty quiet in July and this year looks like nothing significant is likely to form in the next few weeks. This is due to Saharan dust, wind shear aloft due to the current El Nino, and the lack of significant atmospheric waves moving west off of Africa. This year it is harder than usual to predict the total number of storms expected to develop due to the competition between a strong jet from El Nino preventing storm formation and the unusually warm ocean temperatures, which tend to fuel storm development. The more active season for tropical storms begins in mid-August and peaks about a month later, although storms can develop into November or even later. Only two or three of them are likely to affect Georgia directly, but since it only takes one to do a lot of damage, you should keep an eye on the tropics throughout the season just in case.

El Nino has developed and is strengthening rapidly. Typically, El Nino is strongest in winter and is linked towards cooler and wetter than normal conditions over the winter months. However, we are also seeing a trend towards warmer conditions over time, especially in winter, so it is not clear which will win out this year. Because of how strong the El Nino is likely to be, we are more likely than usual to see wet conditions occur this fall, especially late in the season, so you will want to watch conditions carefully and harvest as soon as you can since wet conditions may impede harvest and reduce crop quality if you wait too long.

July/Mid-Season Peanut Irrigation Considerations

- Jason Mallard, David Hall, Phillip Edwards, Daniel Lyon, Hannah Grubbs and Wesley Porter



