

Martin County Crops and Sensitivity to Drought

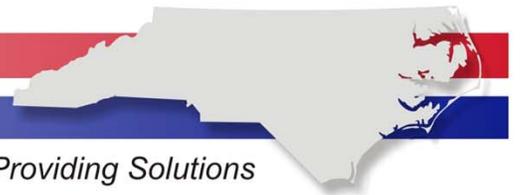
Presented by Al Cochran
County Extension Director
Martin County

NC State University
A&T State University
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

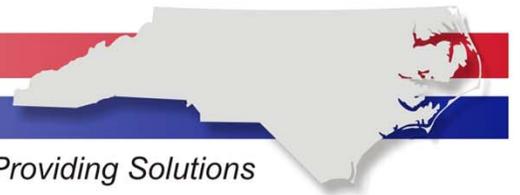
Crops Grown In Martin Co

- Cotton - 48,094 acres
- Soybeans - 8,933 acres
- Peanuts - 8,094 acres
- Tobacco – 5,815
- Wheat – 4,419
- Corn – 3,042



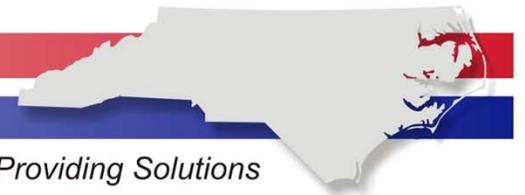
Drought in 2011

- Very dry and hot
- Rain has been spotty
- Driest in Southeastern part of county
- High temperature made drought worse



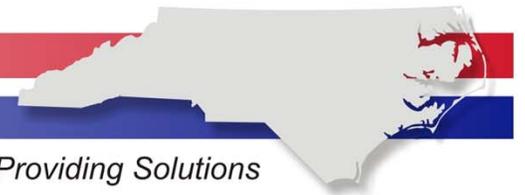
Drought Timing

- Planting - affect germination
- Early growth - less damaging
- Fruiting stage - more important
- Crop maturity - most important
- Harvest - better when dry



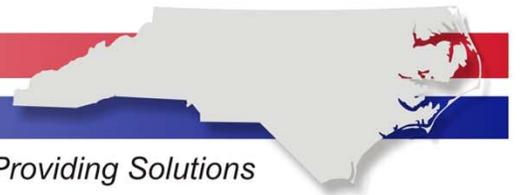
Which Crops Most Affected By Drought

- Corn - least drought tolerant
- Soybean
- Peanuts
- Tobacco
- Cotton - most drought tolerant
- Wheat - winter crop



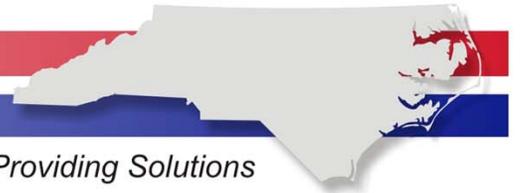
How The Drought Affects Each Crop

- Corn – Dr. Ron Heiniger
- Martin County soils not ideal for corn
- Good crop 1 out of 3 years
- Low yield potential



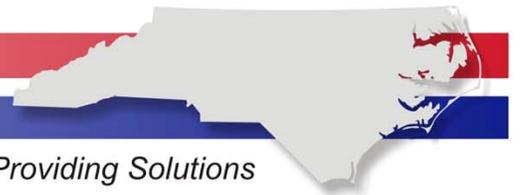
Soybeans

- Early drought, poor germination
- Planted later
- Critical time pod development
- Late drought more damaging



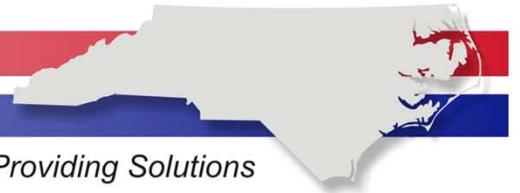
Peanuts

- Drought tolerant early
- Critical time pod filling
- Pegs push into ground and nuts form
- Need moisture when nut developing
- Dry weather needed at harvest



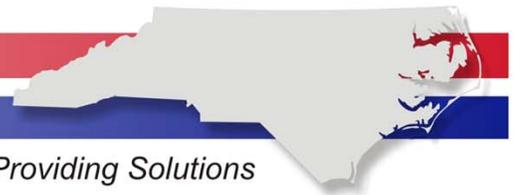
Tobacco

- “Dry weather scare you, wet weather kill you”
- Dry weather hurts when leaves maturing
- Dry weather crop difficult to harvest
- Poor quality



Cotton

- Most drought tolerant crop
- Perennial treated like annual
- Puts on vegetation and fruit until frost
- Squares after Aug 20 usually not harvested
- Wait for rain



Thank You

