## University of Georgia

The **Durham Horticulture Research Farm** is a 90-acre facility located in Watkinsville, approximately 10 minutes from campus.

The farm serves as a living laboratory for faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates to conduct research in horticulture as well as other disciplines. As part of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, the farm also hosts research in plant pathology, entomology, and soil science. The farm has an organic unit and a weather station. Some of the larger components of the Hort Farm's land use include: pecan breeding and evaluations, disease management of peaches, ornamental breeding and evaluations, and more than 6 acres certified organic production area in support of an organic certificate program. It also hosts the UGA Honey Bee Research Lab and a test orchard for the Georgia chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

**Contact:** Ryan McNeill
706-769-7090
hortfarm@uga.edu

Dr. Suzanne O'Connell, Assistant Professor
Sustainable and Organic Horticulture
(706) 542-2471
soco@uga.edu

The University of Georgia Horticulture Department operates three greenhouse ranges in support of its teaching and research programs. The newest of these, the **South Milledge Greenhouse Complex**, opened in 2008. Although some research is conducted at this location, the main mission of the complex is to support educational activities. The three 3,800-square foot Nexus greenhouses house plant collections, provide laboratory space for greenhouse management and organic agriculture classes and furnish greenhouse space for UGArden transplant production.

The **Riverbend Greenhouse Complex** consists of four houses built between the mid-1960s and the early 2000s. Greenhouse 13, a double polycarbonate structure, provides space for student independent research projects and for classes taught in conjunction with the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication. The Horticulture Club, the departmental student organization, maintains a Quonset greenhouse at the Riverbend Complex where they produce crops for spring and fall plant sales, the proceeds of which are used to fund student activities and field trips. The remaining two greenhouses at the Riverbend Complex provide space for student and faculty research projects including ongoing research on greenhouse irrigation and fertilization.

**Contact:** Pam Lewis, Greenhouse Supervisor
(706) 353-8379
plewis@uga.edu

The **UGArden** started with a group of students from various student organizations with an interest in the environment and sustainable agriculture. The student group was called the Campus Community Gardening Initiative and they proposed the garden be named UGArden. Though the UGArden farm has grown well beyond the size and scale originally proposed, the mission has held true to the ideals of a teaching garden with a focus on community outreach. Currently, UGArden provides teaching garden space for two Freshman Odyssey courses, a for-credit internship course, and three upper-level courses. Students from all majors can come to UGArden to take classes or volunteer to learn how to grow a wide range of crops using organic methods.

A large portion of the produce grown at UGArden is distributed to families in need in the community through a partner organization, Campus Kitchen. Some produce is shared through the outreach program Grow it Know it at four middle schools. UGArden is proud to support four weekly community produce stands. UGArden has started to donate weekly produce to the UGA Food Pantry for students.

**Contact:** David Berle, Associate Professor, UGArden Director
(706) 542-2471
dberle@uga.edu

Johannah Biang, Farm Manager
jb1410@uga.edu

The **College Station** on the UGA Athens campus features a range of facilities, including the Plant Genome Mapping Laboratory; Soil, Plant, and Water Lab; Feed and Environmental Water Lab; and Pesticide and Hazardous Waste Lab.

The **Coastal Plain Station** in Tifton includes 7,000 acres in south Georgia with research farms and centers at Attapulgus, Camilla, Midville and Plains. UGA researchers also collaborate with USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists based at the station. South Georgia farmers produce about 80% of the state's row crops and are among the nation's leading producers of peanuts, cotton, vegetables, blueberries, and pecans. The research conducted by the faculty and staff has helped farmers grow the traditional crops in a more efficient and environmentally friendly way and given them many other options such as new turfgrass varieties, nursery plants, fresh market vegetables, fruit and nut trees, and beef and dairy cattle, to name a few.

**Contact:** Dr. Tim Coolong, Associate Professor, Vegetables
(229) 386-7495
tcoolong@uga.edu

The **UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center** features two auditoriums with seating for 2,000 and 350, numerous breakout rooms, a ballroom that accommodates 1,000, and a fully equipped kitchen next to the ballroom.

The **Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center** is located between Reidsville and Lyons in Toombs County. The facility is administered in five buildings on 3 acres of land owned by the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Two 11-acre tracts on a long-term lease from the Georgia Forestry Commission provide researchers and staff land to conduct studies and educational demonstrations. The center was established in 1999 primarily to provide research on Vidalia onions, and 6-7 acres of research plots have been devoted to this crop every year.

Researchers have developed a new pumpkin variety here that will enable south Georgia farmers to grow pumpkins commercially for the first time. In addition, fertility studies and variety trials have been conducted in corn, squash, cucumbers and pumpkins. Blackberries, strawberries, carrots, Brassica crops, garlic, shallots and artichokes have also been studied here, along with no-till and organic vegetable production and composting demonstrations.

**Contact:** Cliff M. Riner, Superintendent
(912) 565-7822
criner@uga.edu