

## Crops Review 2001

The 2001 crop year for Alabama farmers was a year of excellent yields. Favorable weather conditions throughout the growing season and adequate to surplus moisture helped produce such yields. Land preparation got off to a slow start but soon moved ahead of schedule as weather permitted. This delay caused some farmers to plant late, but most acreage was planted about on schedule. Alabama **corn** growers planted a record low 180,000 acres, with 150,000 acres harvested for grain. Even so, they were pleased with **a record yield of 107** bushels per acre, 4 bushels above the previous record set in 1999. There were 610,000 acres planted to cotton and 605,000 acres were harvested. Good to excellent weather brought about a yield of 730 pounds of lint per acre. This rendered production of 920,000 bales, the highest outturn since 1955. **Peanut production** was 532.3 million pounds, the largest crop since 1992. Yield was 2,675 pounds per acre, nearly double the previous year's drought-reduced yield and the largest since 1985. Soybean fields remained in mostly good to excellent condition throughout the growing season. Planting lagged behind schedule in some areas due to excessive rainfall, but by midsummer plant growth began to accelerate. A record **soybean yield** of 35 bushels per acre was realized, one bushel above the record set in 1996. Total production of 4,725,000 bushels was harvested from 135,000 acres, the **lowest acreage on record**. **Hay** was harvested from 920,000 acres, highest since 1948. Hay yield per acre, at 2.6 tons, was just 0.1 ton shy of the record established in 1994. The 2001 wheat crop yielded 48 bushels per acre from 70,000 acres, a total of 3,360,000 bushels. **Irish potato** growers had to deal with excessive rains and a shortage of marketing outlets. They only planted 4,200 acres compared with 5,100 the previous year. Yield was 160 cwt. per acre, down 10 cwt. from a year earlier. On the other hand, sweet potato growers had a good year with a state yield of 170 cwt. per acre, up 25 cwt. from last year. This placed production at 493,000 cwt. from 2,900 acres harvested. **Peach production** was 22 million pounds. **Pecan production** was 15 million pounds unchanged from crop year 2000. Production was down rather sharply in Baldwin County and Mobile County.

### Normal Crop Progress

Crop	Planting Begins	Planting Ends	Harvest Begins	Harvest Ends
Corn	Mid-March	Early June	Late July	Early Nov
Cotton	Early April	Mid-June	Mid-September	Mid-December
Hay, first Cutting	---	---	Early May	Mid-July
Peaches	---	---	Mid-May	Mid-July
Peanuts	Late April	Mid-June	Early September	Early November
Pecans	---	---	Early October	Mid-December
Spring Potatoes	Mid-January	Mid-March	Early May	Early July
Summer Potatoes	Early March	Early April	Early July	Late August
Sweet Potatoes (South)	Mid-March	Late June	Mid-July	Early-November
Sweet Potatoes (North)	Mid-May	Early July	Mid-September	Late October
Soybeans	Late April	Early July	Late September	Mid-December
Wheat	Early October	Late-November	Mid-May	Mid-July