

# Staff

## Research Leader

Melanie L. Harrison

## Administration

Jacqueline McDonald

Peggy Morgan

Donna Kent



## Melons / Eggplant / Okra / Pepper

Robert Jarret and Chris Tatum

## Millets / Bamboo / Sorghum

Melanie Harrison and Jill Cunningham

## Special Purpose Legumes / Miscellaneous Crops /

## Clover / Warm Season Grass

Brad Morris, Libbie Hudson, and Ken Manley

## Cultivated and Wild Peanut / Cowpea and Mung

## Bean

Shyam Tallury

## Seed Storage and Processing

Lee Ann Chalkley, Tiffany Fields, and Sylvia Jones

## Plant Pathology and Seed Germination

David Pinnow and Phiffie Vankus

## Genetics and Chemistry Laboratory /

## Sweetpotato

Ming Li Wang and Brandon Tonnis  
Sarah Moon

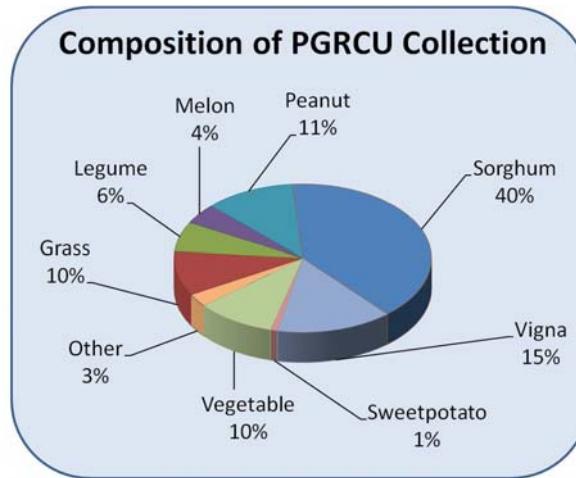
## Field and Farm

Adam Gregory and Angie Lewis

## IT and Database Management

Vacant

Staff includes ARS and UGA/S-009 employees.



## ARS Mission

The Agricultural Research Service conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provides information access and dissemination to:

- ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products;
- assess the nutritional needs of Americans;
- sustain a competitive agricultural economy;
- enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and
- provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Research Service

## Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (PGRCU)



## USDA Agricultural Research Service

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## Plant Germplasm

Genetic resources are the source of hereditary material of living organisms. Plant genetic resources (also known as germplasm) are frequently conserved in gene banks as collections of genotypes (either seed or vegetative tissue). A genotype describes a genetically unique individual or population.



## History

The Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (PGRCU) was established November 1, 1949, as a cooperative effort supported by the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Southern State Agricultural Experiment Stations (S-009 Multistate Project). PGRCU is located on the Griffin campus of the University of Georgia.



## Collections

The collections of the Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit include more than 94,000 plant samples. These diverse collections represent over 260 genera and 1,600 species from almost every country.



## Centers of Diversity

A center of diversity of a plant is a region (on a global scale) which contains the greatest concentration of genetic riches of a species. Gene banks preserve plant genetic resources because many centers of diversity are being destroyed by environmental changes or human intervention of formerly "wild" species areas.



## Research

Research at the Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit is dedicated to providing quality data to users of the collection. This information facilitates selection of material for incorporation into breeding and research programs. Current research priorities include ...



- Developing and applying new genetic technologies for genetic structure and diversity analysis of priority crops.
- Measuring biochemical and nutritional variation within and among collections.
- Strategically expanding the genetic diversity in the collection through germplasm acquisition.
- Evaluating germplasm for morphological and key agronomic/horticultural traits such as salt tolerance, disease/pest resistance, and improved germination.

## Germplasm Distribution

Germplasm is freely distributed by the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System to support educational, research, and breeding objectives.



To request seeds or other plant materials from PGRCU, visit the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) website at <https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/search.aspx?>

## PGRCU Mission

The mission of the Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit is to preserve plant genetic resources for present and future researchers and educators. The Unit acquires, characterizes, conserves, evaluates, documents, and distributes genetic resources of agronomic and horticultural crops including sorghum, peanuts, vegetables, subtropical and tropical legumes, warm-season grasses, cowpeas, annual clovers, and their wild relatives.

