

Staff

Research Leader

Gary Pederson

Administration

Judy Hendrix, Jacqueline McDonald, and Donna Kent



Sorghum and Clover

Gary Pederson and Kami Lindberg

Melons / Eggplant / Sweetpotato / Okra / Pepper

Robert Jarret, Sarah Moon, and Chris Tatum

Warm Season Grass / Pearl Millet / Bamboo

Cultivated and Wild Peanut

Melanie Harrison, Libbie Hudson, and Angie Lewis

Special Purpose Legumes / Miscellaneous Crops

Cowpea and Mung Bean

Brad Morris and Ken Manley

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

Ming Li Wang and Brandon Tonniss

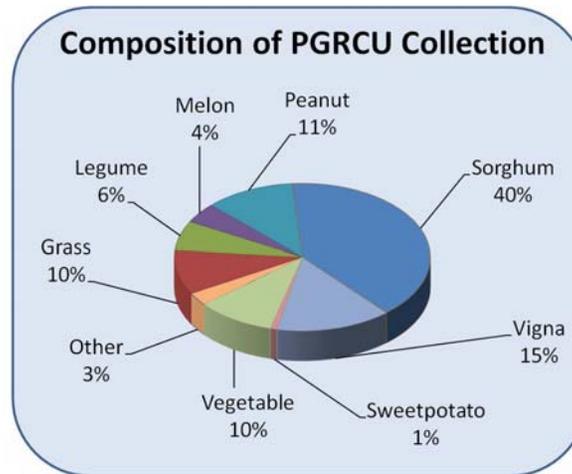
Field and Farm

Donnie Hice, Jill Cunningham, and Adam Gregory

IT and Database Management

Merrelyn Spinks and Jeremy Smith

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)



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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 92,000 plant samples. These diverse collections represent over 260 genera and 1,550 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 www.ars-grin.gov/npgs/orders.html.

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.

