

Tropical Spiderwort: Perspectives From *A Confused* County Agent



Background

**Moved to Grady County in 1994 and
noted several interesting weeds:**

- Wild Poinsettia**
- Ground Cherry**
- Redweed**
- Tropical Spiderwort**

**1998 - Received Questions from
several Growers about Tropical
Spiderwort**

Background

- **1999-First Cotton Field Trials**
- **2000-Most Troublesome Weed in Grady Co Cotton**
- **2001-First Peanut Field Trials**
- **2001-Most Troublesome Weed in Grady Co Peanuts**
- **Today-Present in 60-70% of County Fields**

A map of Georgia showing all 159 counties. Fifteen counties are highlighted in green: Appling, Burke, Chatham, Clinch, Colquitt, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Jasper, Putnam, and Wilkes. These counties are distributed across the state, with a concentration in the central and southern regions.

[illegible]

2004

Tropical Spiderwort: How bad can it be?



Competition with peanut, 2 WAP





Effective weed control

Continuous spiderwort competition with peanut, 6 WAP

Weed-free Peanuts



Weedy Peanuts



Cooperative Research: Webster, Faircloth, Grey, Flanders, and Prostko



Tropical spiderwort infestation, Cairo, GA, 2001.

Hoed 1 week ago









Tropical spiderwort: August







**County Maintained Road
Adjacent to Test Site
Grady County, Georgia**



Why the Rapid Increase in Spread?

Changes in Production Practices

- Introduction of Glyphosate Resistant Cotton
- Increased use of Conservation Tillage
- Introduction of New Herbicides/Systems
- Grady County: Large Corn Acreage
- Growth & Reproductive Characteristics

Cooperators

Leggett Barrett

Willie&Karen Bond

Donald & Lavon Connell

Roger Godwin

Tommy Harrell

WC&Bill Harrell

David & Ron Harrison

Weymond Hawthorne

Sammie Perkins

Jim Tenewitz

Danny Vaughn

Johnny & Linda Whigham

Mark & Eldron Whigham

Lynn/Littleton JR & SR Wilder