Release of UF-Tito and UF-Peace as New Perennial Peanut Cultivars for the Southern U.S.

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"UF-Tito" (PI 262826)

This forage-type perennial peanut cultivar originated from Paraguay and was collected in 1959 by W.C. Gregory. It was first identified as the best line out of a 10-yr evaluation experiment near Gainesville. In multi-location experiments over a 15-yr period, yields of UF-Tito were generally equal to or higher than Florigraze. UF-Tito also had the highest percent pure peanut (lowest invasion by weedy common bermudagrass) and an aggressive growth habit. UF-Tito rapidly establishes, has been negative for PSV and does not have the discoloration of leaves generally associated with that virus. This new release offers genetic diversification from Florigraze, the cultivar that dominates the planted acreage of perennial peanut.

"UF-Peace" (Selection 15)

This forage-type perennial peanut was thought to originally be Arblick, however, it had significantly greater forage yields. Recent AFLP evaluation indicated that the perennial peanut line was different from all known perennial peanut germplasm. UF-Peace resembles Florigraze. In multi-location evaluation experiments over a 15-year period, UF-Peace typically yields similar to Florigraze. This perennial peanut does not have the pronounced PSV symptoms associated with Florigraze. UF-Peace may also have better adaptability in the upper Coastal Plains since it had the best combination of percent emergence, survival, and lateral spread among the entries evaluated in that region of the country. UF-Peace offers another source of genetic diversification from Florigraze.

Although UF-Peace and UF-Tito are similar in yield and appearance, the release of both these new cultivars should broaden the genetic variability of perennial peanut available for forage production in the southeastern USA. Foundation material of both new cultivars will be maintained at the NFREC-Marianna.