

Name: William D. Branch

Rank: Professor – 100% Salary Budgeted for Research



Program Overview:

Dr. Branch is the peanut breeder for the University of Georgia peanut breeding program. He is actively involved in the development of new and improved peanut cultivars for Georgia and the Southeastern U.S.

Education:

Ph.D.	1976	Oklahoma State University	Plant Breeding
M.S.	1974	Oklahoma State University	Crop Science
B.S.	1972	Oklahoma State University	Agriculture

Employment:

1990-present	Professor, Crop & Soil Sciences, University of Georgia
1985-90	Associate Professor, Crop & Soil Sciences, University of Georgia
1984-85	Assistant Professor, Crop & Soil Sciences, University of Georgia
1978-84	Assistant Geneticist, Crop & Soil Sciences, University of Georgia
1977-78	Research Associate, Auburn University

Membership in Professional Societies:

American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
American Peanut Research and Education Society
American Genetic Association
Council of Agricultural Science and Technology
American Peanut Council
Sigma Xi

Awards:

2003-Recipient of the Georgia Crop Improvement Association Distinguished Service Award
2003-Recipient of the Peanut Research and Education Award from the American Peanut Council
2005-Recipient of the Dow AgroScience Award for Excellence in Research

Contributions to Research and Other Creative Activities:

Dr. Branch has a 100% research appointment in peanut breeding. It normally takes about 10 years to develop a new cultivar. Dr. Branch has recently released a new peanut cultivar in each of the last seven years (GEORGIA HI-O/L, GEORGIA VALENCIA, GEORGIA-01R, GEORGIA-02C, GEORGIA-03L, GEORGIA-04S, AND GEORGIA-05E).

8 – Refereed papers in Crop Science
5 – Refereed papers in Peanut Science
4 – Refereed papers in Crop Protection

- 1 – Refereed papers in Plant Breeding
- 1 – Refereed papers in Journal of Heredity
- 17 – Proceeding papers
- 10 – Abstracts
- 7 – Patents/PVPs

Sources of Grants/Amounts:

- Georgia Peanut Commission - \$110,000
- Georgia Seed Development Commission/UGARF - \$245,000

Contributions to Professional Service:

- Chairman, Peanut Crop Registration Committee for Crop Science Society of America
- Coordinator, National Uniform Peanut Performance Tests involving all major peanut states
- Member, Peanut Crop Germplasm Committee of the USDA National Plant Germplasm System
- Member, UGA/CAES Peanut Commodity Committee
- Member, UGA/CAES Plant Cultivar and Germplasm Release Committee
- Member, Georgia Crop Improvement Association Advisory Committee

Goal for the Next Five Years:

Top priority will continue to be the development of improved peanut cultivars with desirable traits for increasing dollar value, yield, grade, disease resistance, insect resistance, virus resistance, nematode resistance, drought resistance, aflatoxin resistance, better shelling characteristics, longer shelf-life, and enhanced flavor and nutritional qualities.