

## Susan Alexander, truffle icon, spotted digging for truffles in Georgia

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[Susan Alexander](#) with truffle dog Pierre in tow searched the famous pecan orchards outside of Albany, Ga. this week. She accompanied a team of mycologists, including Dr. Omoanghe Isikhuemhen and his team from A and T University in Greensboro, N.C., to gather and study the pecan truffle species. Dr. Tim Brenneman of Georgia led the search and introduced all to the 40 year old pecan truffle producing trees. Famed Chef Bob Passarelli's truffle sniffing dog was used for the hunt, which was guided by French guide Saidou Monta.

"Truffles are extremely rare to find in the United States," Alexander says. "More than 85 percent of the market is found in Italy, France, Spain and other parts of Europe. The discovery of pecan truffles native to Georgia is exciting."

There is much to be studied regarding this truffles growth, and Alexander desires, along with farmers, this fragrant truffle be introduced in the U.S. marketplace. Cultivating the pecan truffle is key to developing native local grown truffles in America. Alexander is intent on bringing some of the most desirable truffles found in the U.S. to the marketplace due to freshness and flavor, and she is no amateur. Alexander fell in love with the native Oregon black and white truffles producing a deep fragrance, which are used in many Oregon gourmet food products. Foodies will delight at the combination of flavors American truffles produce when cooking.

Alexander is currently growing [French Black Perigord Truffles](#) in the Sandhills of North Carolina that usually retail for \$1,500 per pound. She uses a variety of truffles to create her gourmet truffle products that are affordable for chefs across the U.S. She has been developing her 200 acre orchard since 2005, which is now the largest orchard in America. Alexander's trees were inoculated with the French Perigord Truffle, native to France, before planting the hazelnut and oak trees in her orchard.

The Georgia hunt produced truffles for the research project. Alexander is very optimistic going forward in the truffle industry saying, "It's all in a day's work, adding to America's history of discover and appreciating truffles of all variety and their taste."



Susan Alexander digging for truffles in Georgia



Susan Alexander and the truffle dog, Pierre

**About Susan Alexander:** Serial entrepreneur [Susan Alexander](#) began her truffle orchard in 2007 on farmland in North Carolina about 50 miles from Raleigh. She has always loved to cook and fell in love with truffles during trips to enjoy the cuisine of Europe. After discovering a lack of truffle farms in the U.S., she decided to bring truffles to America. The orchard is the largest in the United States and the second largest in the world.

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