



## Worth County Weekly Crop Report

*Rusty Harris, County Extension Coordinator*

*Chris Tyson, County Extension Agent*

UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

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### White Mold, Peanut Irrigation Strategy, and Southern Rust

*Rusty Harris*

This week's report will be short, but the information is worth while nonetheless. There are lots of issues playing out in crop fields as we speak. Some are slightly unexpected, and some are routine. I will pick them apart piece by piece.

#### **Peanuts:**

White mold is showing up in most fields regardless of variety. I believe everybody is on the right track with fungicide use, but I have a few observations to make. First, NONE of the winners for the 2009 Georgia Peanut Achievement Club (formerly aka Peanut Moneymaker Club) used generic tebuconazole on their peanuts in 2009. Second, timing is everything. Many of the Georgia Peanut Achievement Club winners used night sprays for soil-borne fungicides. Research has proved that spraying at night after the trifoliolate leaves have folded consistently nets better disease control as opposed to daytime sprays.

I have received a call or two and heard a few comments regarding Beggarweed in peanuts. This weed is coming on strong in peanuts this year. I have included an article on the subject by Dr. Eric Prostko, UGA Extension Peanut Weed Specialist.

### Classic Herbicide and GA-06G Peanuts

*Eric Prostko*

Although Palmer amaranth has been foremost on everyone's mind, Florida beggarweed can still be troublesome. The only legal control option for beggarweed control late in the season is Classic. You may recall that I have suggested that our growers **not** use Classic on GA-06G. This is due to the fact that I have observed **statistically** significant yield losses in back-to-back years of study (Table 1). If a grower decides to use Classic on GA-06G, you should inform him that he could expect to see a 6-14% yield loss from the Classic. Depending upon the population of beggarweed, this may or may not be acceptable. Studies are currently in the field to evaluate the tolerance of FL-07 and Tifguard.

Some other random thoughts about Classic use in peanut you might find interesting:

- 1) Classic is only labeled for the control of Florida beggarweed up to 10" tall. Thus, growers should expect marginal control of plants larger than this.
- 2) Florida beggarweed plants previously treated with Cadre are less susceptible to Classic.
- 3) Classic will likely cause the peanut plants to turn yellow for about 7-10 days (**Figure 1**).

4) Late-season applications of Classic will not directly result in improved yields. However, it may improve harvest efficiency and fungicide deposition.

Additional information about Classic use in peanut can be found in the Summary of Weed Science Articles (tan cover, black binding) that I distributed to you in the fall of 2009 (pages 54-55, 73-74).

**Table 1. GA-06G Yield Response to Classic (0.5 oz/A) - 2008-2009**

Time of Application (DAE)	2008	2009
0	5750	5710
60-69	5390 (-6.3%)	4870 (-14.7%)
70-79	5536	5084 (-11%)
89-98	5138 (-10.6%)	5388
105-110	5444	5811
LSD 0.10	343	572

DAE = Days After Peanut Emergence



## **Peanut Irrigation:**

Most of our peanuts are entering the growth phase where they need 1.5-2 inches of water per week. Peanuts younger than this will need at least 1-1.5 inch of water per week. Don't let peanuts stress for water if possible. Temperature causes problems itself, and drought stress compounds the problem exponentially. High night time temperatures directly affect plant health in terms of photosynthesis vs. respiration. Photosynthesis is the process by which carbohydrates are synthesized in the form of sugars in a plant with the by product being oxygen. Respiration is the exact opposite. It occurs when the plant is in a state of stress and stomata (microscopic pores on underside of leaves) close and don't allow the oxygen to release to the atmosphere. Instead, the plant enters a complex cycle in which sugars are consumed and carbon dioxide is produced. Thus, the good things produced from the day are consumed by the plant at night before being used by the plant in higher order cycles by which sugars are assimilated into cellulose, lignin, and other important compounds needed for positive plant growth.

## **Southern Rust:**

Most march planted corn is out of the stage where southern rust is an issue. Late planted corn is in its prime for being devastated by the fungus. Dr. Bob Kemeraut suggests that we be on a good spray program with strobilurin fungicides to combat the disease. It has appeared across the corn belt in the U.S. Midwest, so I suspect that fungicide shortages may be forthcoming. Make arrangements to have your crop sprayed asap if you haven't already.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rust" or similar, written in a cursive style.