

PeanutFax: Southeast

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Here is this week's *PeanutFax*, sponsored by the Southeast staff of Nichino America, maker of *Artisan*[™] peanut fungicide and *ET*[™] cotton herbicide/defoliant.

OVERVIEW

Rains continue to fall, and the crop still looks good. A little preliminary hull scraping has started in south Georgia. No big pest pressure is reported. A couple of our contacts this week said they were seeing a few more signs of disease. But everyone reports that growers have tightened up on fungicide sprays as much as weather conditions allow.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

CROP REPORTS

Bobby Boutwell, Royster-Clark Farmmarket, Jay, Fla.: "We're in a 'dog days' weather pattern. Every day we're getting little showers in the morning or at night scattered around the county, and some of these

showers are turning into real rain. It's not raining everywhere on a given day, but it's rained enough that everyone has adequate moisture.

"Peanuts look real good. Growers are spraying fungicides. Small amounts of grass and weeds are popping through. Peanuts have totally closed now, and we'll be digging our earliest fields by Labor Day. We've got prospects for a bumper yield. We've got the vines and the moisture, not much insect pressure and hardly any sign yet of diseases.

"Also, we haven't had any burnoff days with intense heat and dry conditions that can kill little pegs."

Rusty Harris, Worth County Extension Agent, Sylvester, Ga.:

"White mold sprays are going out. We had a streak of weather where people couldn't spray by ground earlier, and the airplanes stayed busy. Mostly, though, showers have been spaced out enough to allow most treatments to go on schedule. Nobody is behind and, if anything, many growers may be tightening intervals to 10-12 days.

"We're picking up a few foliage

feeders, mainly corn earworms, but not at treatment level. Also, three-cornered alfalfa hoppers have girdled stems in spots, and growers have been wondering what kind of disease is causing this.

"The crop looks extremely good. Except for one week with blazing heat, temperatures have been mild. In the last week we've gotten rainfall across the county, with totals in the 3" range in places. It continues to be a strange year, weather-wise. One farmer says it feels odd not to be running a couple of brand new center pivots. Some irrigation started last week and the beginning of the previous week. Then it started raining again."

Mark Mitchell, Mitchell Ag Consulting, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.:

"We're getting rain in most areas. My scouts said they were in some dry-land cotton in Miller County yesterday (Wednesday) that was in a dead wilt. But folks in Decatur County have been getting rain and plenty of it. We've got showers in the area even as we speak. So far this season

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we've run a few irrigation systems on both cotton and peanuts in both counties. But everytime we ran them we got a deluge right away.

"We are treating more Southern corn rootworms in fields that haven't already been treated for lesser cornstalk borers. This is mainly on heavier soils. Foliage feeders haven't been much of a problem. We've treated a few leafhoppers.

"More white mold became apparent last Friday and Saturday in some fields. I found it starting up in as many as 6 out of 10 locations. Tomato spotted wilt virus is increasing on some fields. It's still not as heavy on my older, twin-row fields, but I'm finding it in some single-row peanuts in Miller County that are 99-100 days old.

"Leafspot is increasing. I don't have any fields where it's a problem, though. Some rhizoctonia limb rot is showing up, too, but it's not a problem, either.

"We'll run a maturity test this afternoon on some Virginia peanuts that are 108 days old that will be dug for boiling. The target date for digging is next Monday. We'll run maturity tests on some of our earliest Georgia Greens this weekend. Those peanuts are about 120 days old and are 2 or 3 weeks from any digging."

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: "We've had a lot of rain in places. I just came through Mitchell County (Thursday), and they've had a heavy rain last night or today. I've been through showers all day, and the clouds all around me are loaded with more rain. People may be complaining about not being able to get into fields, but peanuts look mighty good.

"Some late emerging weeds are showing up, and people are trying to stay on schedule with fungicides. Steve Brown (Extension Entomologist) emphasized in a report to county

agents that conditions absolutely favor Southern corn root worms and wire worms, and it's wet enough that they may even turn up in lighter soils.

"Three-cornered alfalfa hoppers are out there in heavy numbers in isolated places. With a lot of corn drying, corn earworms are moving into peanuts. The normal threshold is 4 per row foot, but we've got so much foliage now that Steve says we could withstand 6-8 unless populations don't cycle out.

"We're also approaching the point that velvetbean caterpillars can move into peanuts quickly and cause damage, so we need to be watching for signs of foliage feeding in the tops."

Dallas Hartzog, Alabama Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.: "We're wet all the way across our peanut belt. Growers are doing the absolute best they can to control foliar and soil-borne diseases. They're committed to this crop, and we're less than 6 weeks away now from the beginning of harvest. Most people are excited about the prospects, but we know the game isn't over yet.

"This has been a moderate insect season, and we're not finding any soil insect infestations. We are seeing a lot of leafspot and white mold now, and conditions are nearly ideal for both. With the vine development this season, I expect limb rot to be apparent soon. Most growers are shortening spray intervals to 10-14 days, and that will pay dividends."

Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville, Fla.: "We continue to receive rain. It's not flooding, but it's raining regularly, to the point that we may get a shower in the morning and another one in the afternoon. We also haven't had many bright, sunny days lately. I don't see any extreme yellowing, but the fields generally don't have that deep green color. The level of photosynthesis isn't

quite as high as normal.

"We're still not seeing disease to any extent. Weeds are out there, but nothing really drastic. There's an outside chance some digging will start on the earliest fields in 2 weeks, maybe 3 weeks at the outside.

"In north-central Florida, rust is showing up on peanuts. Tom Kucharek, Extension Plant Pathologist, issued an advisory on it this week."

Carl Hobbs, Carl Hobbs Ag Consulting, Ashburn, Ga.: "We're tightening up fungicide applications as much as field conditions allow. Pest pressure is light, and we continue to receive rains. In the last 3 or 4 trips through my area I haven't seen a pivot running. That's roughly in an area 48 miles wide and 20 miles deep.

"Peanuts look good, and we're setting a crop. I don't have anything older than about 80 days, but at the rate things are going we could be digging some at 120-125 days."

Moth Trap Catches

From Ron Weeks
Extension Entomologist
Wiregrass REC, Headland, Ala.

Insect	7/16-24*	7/25-31*
LCSB	3.7	5.5
FA	1.6	0
BA	0.8	1.2
CE	16.7	6.7
TBW	3.3	4.2

From Michael Donahoe
Santa Rosa County Extension
Milton, Fla.

Insect	7/18-23*	7/24-30*
LCSB	0.3	0
FA	0	1.1
BA	0	0
CE	85.9	93.2
TBW	0.8	0.1

* Average number per night. LCSB, lesser cornstalk borer; FA, fall armyworm; BA, beet armyworm; CE, corn earworm; TBW, tobacco budworm.