

# PeanutFax: Southeast

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Here is this weeks' *PeanutFax*, sponsored by Nichino America, maker of **Artisan**<sup>TM</sup> peanut fungicide and **ET**<sup>TM</sup> cotton defoliant/herbicide.

## OVERVIEW

A few more peanuts are being dug in the southern portions of our coverage area. Rains have slacked off, but some locations continue to receive more than anyone wants. Leafspot is becoming more pronounced in places. Worms are being treated in a number of areas.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

## CROP REPORTS

**John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.:** "Just a little harvest is starting. On the route I took to the Marianna, Florida, field day today (Thursday) I saw one field dug in Florida just below the Alabama line. We're just now seeing some of those late April peanuts getting ready.

"Areas of the state continue to get rain, although showers are more isolated now. There were fields this week

between Midville and Tifton where irrigation systems were running. I also saw systems operating on the way to Marianna. But there also are places where rains have been quite heavy.

"Disease pressure continues to build. I've been in fields this week where the grower got behind on leafspot sprays and plants had shed quite a few leaves. It will probably have an impact on yields.

"A large part of this crop won't be ready for at least 3 weeks. If any field has more than 2 weeks left before harvest, it will need one more application. And in our later fields we're probably looking at 2 more treatments. Most of those mid May peanuts are still a good month away. The moisture and tremendous vine growth continue to make for a favorable disease environment."

**Dallas Hartzog, Alabama Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.:** "We are presently digging early maturing varieties. They're making good yields, I think, but we don't have a lot of numbers yet. Grading hasn't started yet at most buying points.

"We'll gradually get into the midseason varieties in another 7-10

days. Overall, the percentage of peanuts dug and/or harvested is too small to mention.

"The soil is drying out rather rapidly in many areas. Peanut diseases are plentifully but don't seem to be overwhelming us. The thing that would do the most good right now would be a little break in the temperatures. When the season changes and the weather moderates, disease won't spread quite as much.

"We have found rust in SW Alabama and are encouraging growers to stay on a tight fungicide schedule. A 7-day interval is what it will take to prevent severe pressure and even a total crop loss. Part of our yield losses last year were due to rust. It's one of the few diseases that can rapidly kill a plant."

**Edward Kane, Ind. Crop Consultant, Robertsdale, Ala.:** "A little harvest has started. ViruGards are being dug in a few areas, and one of my growers has harvested a field of Georgia Greens planted April 23-24. All I've heard are wet weights, but they sounded fair. In 10-14 days we're going to be digging in several

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fields.

“We’re trying to stay on top of hull scraping, not just to schedule harvest but to figure out the rest of our fungicide program.

“We’ve got a little rust, but nothing dramatic. I’m seeing more late leafspot than anything else. We’ve mainly been on a 10-14 day treatment interval. We’ve tightened it up where we might have a little more leafspot than normal.

“Velvetbean caterpillars are building a lot in places, and we’re starting to treat them and a mix of Southern armyworms. Loopers are out there, too, with an occasional corn earworm. We’ve treated numerous fields in the last week in combination with fungicides. The majority of our peanuts have 1-2 fungicide treatments left, but a few later fields will need 3 more.”

**Steve Brown, Extension Entomologist, Tifton, Ga.:** “We checked some tests in Plains Wednesday and found Southern corn rootworm damage running 35-40% in some untreated plots. These were in heavy soils that stayed very wet. This is something you won’t know about until you pull up some roots and shake off the mud. Growers with similar soils and conditions need to be checking.

“It’s getting too late in most fields to do anything. Aside from the fact that we’ve got preharvest treatment intervals and no real good rescue options, most of the damage has probably been done now. But we do need to take note of problems as hull scraping starts and be prepared to do something next year.

“Worms are being sprayed in a few pockets. That includes loopers, mostly soybean loopers, in the SW part of the state. Velvetbean caterpillars are showing up in places, and some are being sprayed. Three-cornered alfalfa hoppers have been heavy all year, and we’re into the 3rd or 4th generation and getting some incredibly high

numbers. In early fields it’s probably too late to justify treating, but in late-planted fields they may need to be taken out.

“Tomato spotted wilt virus continues to be low in most fields, but it’s picking up in some locations. In general, though, it’s much lighter than last year.”

**Judd Lisenby, Consultant/Grower, Lisenby Cotton Services, Ozark, Ala.:** “A lot of the ViruGards are getting plowed up, and some growers have started into a few Georgia Greens that were planted early. But we’re still 7-10 days away from much plowing.

“I’m finding some more looper and fall armyworm activity. Worm pressure is higher than it’s been all year. A few folks are treating. So far, we haven’t seen anything treatable, but we may reach that point early next week. We’ll probably go with Intrepid.

“Leafspot probably is our biggest problem. White mold doesn’t look bad. We’re not seeing much limb rot.

“The crop looks good. Some isolated low places have had too much water, but the rain patterns this year have been great, overall. We started a little irrigation today (Thursday) in SW Georgia, but rain is around, too.”

**Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville, Fla.:** “Things are moving along. More peanuts are being dug, and combining has started. We don’t have much in the way of yield information yet.

“We’re seeing some leafspot blowing out the tops of plants. There was a field of AT-201s this week that the grower decided to go ahead and take. He’ll have a little hit on grade but he had a pretty good crop and stood to lose a bunch of it if he waited. There may be a few more cases like that out there with the wet weather and heavy vine growth this year.

“It’s still raining a little around the area, but things are much drier than

they’ve been. We’re picking up a little tomato spotted wilt virus but nothing like last year. Late infections aren’t nearly as bad as the early ones.”

**Mark Mitchell, Mitchell Ag Consulting, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.:** “We’re still getting rain, and it’s hurting us in places. It’s rotting our cotton and making peanut harvest a mess. A week ago Tuesday night, parts of Miller County got 3-6", and we’ve had totals of 1" to 1.5" in different places since then.

“One grower said he’s had 5 days without rain in the last 3 months, and he may not even gather his peanut crop. There’s hardly anything there.

“We’re still finding white mold, but nothing heavy. Tomato spotted wilt virus is increasing in a lot of fields, primarily those planted in April. But leafspot is probably our worst disease right now.

“In an extreme case, one field has less than 25% of its leaves left due to leafspot. We’ve had situations where growers wanted to wait and spray by ground. But when they did, it started raining or it rained soon afterwards, so they didn’t get the full benefit of the treatment.

“Where we’ve harvested already, things look pretty good. On about 150 acres of boiling peanuts the net green weight after cleaning was just over 6,000 lbs/acre. We’ve plowed up 500-600 acres. Where we’ve done any gathering, the grades have been mostly in the mid 70s and up to 77. We’re averaging about 75.”