

PeanutFax: Southeast

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

OVERVIEW

Much of our coverage area continues to receive rain. A little more disease is reported here and there, but none of our contacts this week knew of runaway problems. Foliage feeders are picking up in some locations. Three-cornered alfalfa hoppers also have developed in hot spots.

The crop continues on course. Pod evaluations and profiling will start next week in a few areas.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

CROP REPORTS

Dallas Hartzog, Alabama Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.: "We've had some pretty general rains in the last week, and they're really helping the crop. It's probably

approaching the end of pod set in most fields, and from now to harvest we'll be concentrating on maturing it out.

"Many growers are doing an amazingly thorough job of leafspot control, and that will show up at harvest. It will be even more important if weather delays things and the crop has to sit in the field another 10 days.

"We've got to stay on top of our program. I'm seeing some leafspot and white mold in a lot of fields, particularly in susceptible varieties. And with the way this crop looks and the field conditions we have, I expect to find limb rot.

"We're finding corn earworms where the corn dried down, and some leafhopper injury is present, mainly where growers mowed around fields and they moved into peanuts. A few fall armyworms are present too. None are at treatable levels.

"Our peanuts planted on May 1 will be 123 days old on September 1, so sometime shortly after Labor

Day we'll start harvesting our crop. Hopefully, we'll have a different weather pattern then."

Edward Kane, Ind. Crop Consultant, Robertsdale, Ala.: "Peanuts are looking pretty good. We still have areas that are waterlogged. Other than that we're just trying to clean up the very last of the weeds and grass.

"We treated this week in a couple of areas that had armyworm pressure, mainly southern and fall armyworms, plus velvetbean caterpillars and loopers. We haven't had our usual velvetbean caterpillar pressure yet.

"Disease isn't showing up to any extent. I'm seeing a little leafspot, but nothing major. We're just getting to the point that we can spray by ground again. Although our soils generally dry out pretty quickly, they were so saturated that a half-inch rain was all it took to keep us out of the field for a week. We're treating about every 10-14 days now in most

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fields.”

Tom Cary, Worth County Extension Coordinator, Sylvester, Ga.: “Peanuts are doing really well, although we’d like to see some sunshine. A little white mold is starting to show up. And I expect that we’ll find foliage feeders toward the end.

“In wetter fields we’re recommending that folks scout for southern corn root worms. They’re usually worse west of us. But as wet as it’s been we could get them here, too. With all the dry seasons we’ve had in recent years, a lot of growers may have forgotten about them.

“Our May 1 peanuts will be 100 days old on Saturday, and we recommend that people start checking them at about 110 days. We’ll crank up our hull scraping clinics on August 25.

“The upside of all this wet weather is that a lot of growers haven’t turned on their pivots all year. Since last Wednesday we’ve only had 2 days when it didn’t rain at least some, and so far today (Thursday) I’ve poured another 1” out of the gauge. We had a good bit of rain in July and already have had a lot for August.”

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: “We continue to get rain, and the main challenge is getting fungicides applied on a timely basis. Aerial applicators are running behind, and I was just talking to someone in Florida who said pilots there can’t get around soon enough, either.

“Weeds continue to pop through. I’m seeing fields with, among other things, Texas millet, morningglory and Florida beggarweed. I don’t think they’re necessarily going to limit potential yield, but they could interfere with harvest.

“Jim Todd, a research entomologist, said he’s seeing velvetbean caterpillar moths at research sites, and corn earworm moths also are present. All this corn is drying down, so it’s not unexpected that they would be moving into peanuts now. I’ve seen a fair number of alfalfa hoppers in places.

“White mold is pretty heavy in places. We’ve got tremendous vine growth, and that creates a greenhouse effect under the vines. We need to be checking and treating.

“A 10-14 day interval should be sufficient with the fungicides we have now. But we don’t want to go any longer than that, especially with this season’s conditions.”

Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville, Fla.: “Everything is going alright. We’re still getting plenty of rain. It’s been great to have it, but we’re going to have a hard time trying to dry peanuts in the field if we keep getting one or more showers a day. A few weeds are coming up.

“Counties are starting their hull scrape and profile work as we get closer to digging time. By the end of the month we’ll have some peanuts coming out.

“We’ve got to keep these vines in good shape. If the rain continues and we have to wait longer to harvest then a good fungicide program will be that much more important.”

Steve Brown, Extension Entomologist, Tifton, Ga.: “We’re not seeing any one thing that’s a major problem in terms of pests, but there are little pockets out there. Foliage feeders are picking up. I’ve seen some velvetbean caterpillars, fall armyworms and corn earworms in the southern part of the state. Some have

been sprayed, and others will require treatments. By this time of the season we expect numbers to build, but it’s been a relatively light year, so far.

“We are getting calls about three-cornered alfalfa hoppers. For some reason we’ve had more of them in recent years. Several fields have been sprayed. We don’t have a good, scientific threshold, but we can get into populations that do need to be treated. How much damage they do this late in the season is questionable, but they are cheap to control.

“Leaf hoppers are around. Southern corn rootworms remain a concern with the wetter soils this season. I’m seeing some adults around, and there’s an occasional problem. But I’m surprised that we’re not seeing any more than we are.”

Moth Trap Catches

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

Insect	7/25-31*	8/1-6*
LCSB	5.5	6.2
FA	0	0.6
BA	1.2	1.9
CE	6.7	5.8
TBW	4.2	13.3

From Michael Donahoe
Santa Rosa County Extension
Milton, Fla.

Insect	7/24-30*	7/31-8/6*
LCSB	0	0
FA	1.1	5.3
BA	0	0
CE	93.2	74.6
TBW	0.1	1.5

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