

PeanutFax: Southeast

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

OVERVIEW

The weather is tracking into a somewhat drier pattern, and pivots are running now for the first time this season across parts of our coverage area. A few worms are being treated in Georgia. A limited amount of harvest could start in central Florida within a month, and digging in the western panhandle might begin in the earliest fields within 6 weeks.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

CROP REPORTS

Wes Briggs, Briggs Crop Services, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.: "Peanuts look real good. We're just trying to clean up some areas. Classic is going out to take care of beggarweed. With all the water everybody has had we've stopped treating for lesser cornstalk borers. But we have corn

earworms, fall armyworms and loopers in the peanuts now, and we're spraying a little for foliage feeders.

"Tomato spotted wilt virus is showing up, but not real bad. I'm seeing a little white mold and some leafspot. Everybody is staying on about a 14-day fungicide schedule now.

"We're starting to irrigate some now. By Saturday just about all our pivots will be running except where they're doing field work. Some of our oldest peanuts should be ready to dig in 40-50 days."

Dallas Hartzog, Alabama Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.: "On a few wet fields in southwest Alabama our yields will be impacted by all the rain there. But conditions may be moderating somewhat, with slightly cooler temperatures, and that will really help flowering. If showers are spaced out just a little we still have plenty of time to see some things turn around.

"I was on our Fairhope station this week, and the soil was so wet that it would have bogged down a butterfly. But I've been pulling up some plants. There's a lot of potential beneath

those vines. Peanuts still look awfully good in places. By and large, most growers will tell you they'd rather make a crop in a wet year than a dry one.

"Over on this side of the state we're drying out some. Growers are busy putting out late season 2,4DB, fungicides and boron, plus keeping one eye to the sky. They're working hard when conditions are right.

"We're not seeing much, disease-wise, but it's still a little early. I'm finding some leafspot but nothing rampant. There isn't much white mold present, but, again, it's a little early for it."

Bobby Boutwell, Royster-Clark Farmmarket, Jay, Fla.: "We've had scattered showers, and peanuts are still looking good. No leafspot problems are apparent, and growers are applying fungicides as close to schedule as possible.

"A few weeds are popping up, and we're knocking them back now with 2,4DB. We don't have any problems with grasses at the moment, but with all this moisture we could see more develop. Some of our early peanuts are now 6 weeks from digging."

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John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: “Some places went 10-14 days without significant rain and have turned off a little dry. But thunderstorms started developing in the last couple of days, and that’s helped in places. The eastern part of our production area, in fact, is very wet. Some locations got 2-4” of rain over the weekend and more today (Thursday).

“In terms of moisture, things look generally good. There are waterlogged spots, and we continue to get calls about yellow plants where nitrogen isn’t being produced. As soon as those fields dry out we should see the color improve.

“Growers are earnestly trying to get fungicides on. You can tell this is a year with a lot of disease potential. We have plots at Midville that are 50 days old and haven’t been sprayed with a fungicide yet due to boggy conditions. Some leafspot is showing up now. Where growers are on schedule with spraying, the fungicides are doing a great job.

“We’re getting a good chance to compare these new varieties in terms of disease. In one set of plots this week you could clearly tell the difference between a resistant and a susceptible variety. On a highly resistant one there wasn’t a trace of leafspot. A susceptible variety next to it was covered up.

“Overall, the last time a crop looked this good in mid July was in the 1984-85 period. The main thing we need now are enough scattered summer showers to fill out all the potential this crop has.”

Tom Cary, Worth County Extension Coordinator, Sylvester, Ga.: “A lot of growers are putting on their 3rd fungicide spray. We’re lapping or near that point in a lot of fields, and our older peanuts are blooming and pegging. We’re pretty much through weed control work. It’s been dry enough now that some cotton and

peanuts are being irrigated. The pivots started running last week, and that’s the first time this year.”

Steve Brown, Extension Entomologist, Tifton, Ga.: “Foliage feeders are very spotty, but there are a few calls coming in now about worms building to treatment levels. A couple of weeks ago it was tobacco budworms and some corn earworms. We’re getting reports now about fall armyworms in the extreme southern part of the state.

“It’s really the time of the year that we expect this, and what we’re seeing now may or may not develop into something bigger. At the least, we need to start taking counts on foliage feeders and see what kind of trends are out there. Compared to last year, at least we have more treatment options now.

“Some leaf hoppers are around. Again, it’s spotty and nothing bad yet. But some treatments are being made. If you wait until they’re too bad then it’s too late and the damage has been done. So, the prevailing wisdom is to treat ahead of a problem. It’s pretty cheap to control them. People mostly go with a low rate of Orthene or a pyrethroid, but any of our foliar-applied insecticides will work.

“I’m a little concerned about soil insects just because we have a wetter field environment. We’re just getting a pod load, and we’re starting to find a few wireworms and Southern corn root worms. It’s too early to tell if they’re going to be a problem.”

Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville, Fla.: “Everything is still pretty quiet. Rains haven’t been excessive in the last week, and we probably are a little toward the dry side in some areas. But there have been enough showers over enough of our growing region to keep things going pretty well. I’m in the Live Oak area today (Friday) and peanuts look good here.

“Although the humidity is high, the

actual temperatures aren’t high enough to affect pollination or pegging.

“There’s a little leafspot showing up, but nothing out of hand. I’ve seen a little tomato spotted wilt virus. But, again, nothing bad.

“We’re within maybe a month of digging some of the early fields. Our green peanut growers appear to be having enough yield that there’s talk of holding back peanuts for their 2004 seed and reduce their seed expense next year. I’m not sure how good an idea that is, although it probably will be attempted. We could likely get a rain while trying to dry down the seed, and that would lead to sprouting. The best time to attempt saving seed is in October when it’s drier, but the peanuts are ready now.”

Moth Trap Catches

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

Insect	7/3-10*	7/11-15*
LCSB	5.4	7.0
FA	0.4	1.2
BA	1.4	0.6
CE	7.1	6.0
TBW	28.6	5.0

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