

# PeanutFax: Southeast

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Here is this week's issue of *PeanutFax*, sponsored by the Southeast staff of Valent U.S.A. Corporation, maker of Select®, Valor™, Orthene® and other products designed for Southern peanut production.

## OVERVIEW

Dry weather over the last week allowed growers to play catch-up on a wide basis. Herbicides and fungicides are being applied.

The crop continues to look tremendous, but there's also underlying concern about whether showers will remain in place over the next 2 months. A bit of leafspot is turning up, but no large-scale disease pressure has been reported.

As a couple of our contacts noted, all the wet weather is pushing growers to make fungicide treatments on a more preventive basis than they thought necessary during recent years when far less rain fell.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

## CROP REPORTS

**Dallas Hartzog, Alabama Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.:** "We've gone about a week without rain, and we'll be needing one pretty badly by the end of next week. Rains up to now won't do much to determine the final size of the crop. We're just getting into the critical stage. Most of the pins we harvest will be set between now and August 1, and the weather between now and Labor Day will determine how they fill.

"Peanuts have been blooming profusely, and the May 1 peanuts are pegging quite nicely. With the moisture we've gotten already, the peanuts, weeds and diseases are growing quite well. Many of our growers are severely off schedule with fungicide applications.

"We're principally battling leafspot, but white mold will be a concern shortly. Growers are doing

what they can to catch up. Weeds are making things complicated, too. A lot of growers missed cracking sprays due to rain, and weeds can interfere with effective fungicide coverage and hurt harvesting efficiency.

"I'd like to remind folks to put these dates on their calendars. Our field day here is August 21. Our friends at Marianna, Fla., have their field day a week later on August 28. On October 1, we'll break ground for our new facility here."

**John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.:** "We've gone a week without rain, and that's enabled growers to start catching up on herbicide and fungicide spraying. On Tuesday and Wednesday I was on the Deep South Weed Tour and covered a lot of territory in south Georgia and into Alabama. It's been years since I've seen a crop that looked so good at this point in the season.

"The concern now is whether we'll get enough showers to support

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the potential crop we have. We've got good subsoil moisture. But as we start pegging and filling pods, the moisture that matters most is in the top 3" of soil.

"For what it's worth, the National Weather Service calls for wetter conditions in its 30-60 day forecast. That's exactly what we need to bring along the dryland crop and keep the pivots from running quite so much.

"Some leafspot is popping up. Treatments have been delayed, but with fungicides we now have, we should be able to keep it mostly at bay. I haven't heard of any white mold in older peanuts, but conditions are conducive.

"We're encouraging growers to start spraying as soon as they can stand up in the field. If they have a lot of weed competition, they probably need to apply herbicides first and clean up the growth so they can get better coverage with fungicides."

**Bobby Boutwell, Royster-Clark Farmmarket, Jay, Fla.:** "This is probably the best looking crop here in 5 years. We've had adequate moisture to excessive moisture at times. This has led to some weed control problems. A lot of attention is being paid to grass, and growers are going back with Select, Poast Plus or Fusilade. We're pretty much past the Cadre stage and not quite to the Classic stage.

"People also are trying to stay on top of fungicide programs. We're into our 2nd fungicide applications and even the 3rd on a few fields. Our twin-row peanuts are nearly touching in the middles."

**Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville, Fla.:** "We haven't had a rain since Friday of last week. It may still be wet in places,

but it's gotten dry enough now that dust is blowing a little in some fields. We're not hurting for a rain anywhere yet, but there's rain in the forecast for the weekend, and the timing would be good if it does materialize.

"This break has given everyone a chance to catch up on weeds. Most people are applying fungicides, and some are in their 2nd treatment and a few are probably moving toward their 3rd.

"Leafspot hasn't popped out anywhere I've been this week. If I looked at enough plants I might find some, but there's nothing apparent. I think the rain has prompted growers to make applications as soon as possible."

**Tom Cary, Worth County Extension Coordinator, Sylvester, Ga.:** "There still may be a few low spots that are too wet to work, but most of our area has dried out in the last few days. Our 1st fungicide applications have gone out, and we'll see the 2nd applications starting by June 30.

"We are going to have some weeds this year. Escapes are a fact of life with this much rain. But if we keep getting the kinds of rain we'll need to fill this crop, we can live with some weeds.

"I haven't seen any leafspot under the microscope yet. We looked at plants earlier that people thought had been hit by disease, but it turned out to be phorate burn."

**Rocky Sumblin, UAP, Kinston, Ala.:** "Peanuts look great, the best I've seen in 15 years. Even in some of our better seasons in recent years, there usually are 1-2 communities where peanuts don't look good. But I haven't talked to a soul this year who's dissatisfied with the way things

have started, except for disappointment about weed control.

"But we've had 7 days of clear, dry weather, and people are cleaning up fields pretty steadily now. Growers are putting out Artisan and Folicur now for white mold, trying to get peanuts protected. Everybody's in a hurry to get something out, either by air or land. All this rain has prompted a lot of growers to spray earlier."

## Moth Trap Catches

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

<b>Insect</b>	<b>6/12-17*</b>	<b>6/17-26*</b>
<b>LCSB</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>FA</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>BA</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>CE</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>TBW</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>

From Michael Donahoe  
Santa Rosa County Extension  
Milton, Fla.

<b>Insect</b>	<b>6/18-6/25*</b>
<b>LCSB</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FA</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>BA</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>CE</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>TBW</b>	<b>0.2</b>

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

**Also from Mike Donahoe:**  
"Aphids are on the increase in cotton. Some fields have high levels and are being treated – mainly with Centric and Trimax."