

# PeanutFax: Southeast

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Here is this week's issue of *PeanutFax*, brought to you by the Southeast staff of Valent U.S.A. Corporation, maker of Valor™, Select®, Orthene® and other peanut products. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

*Owen Taylor, Editor*

## OVERVIEW

Dry weather continues to prevail through a wide part of our coverage area. Planting has stopped in many areas where irrigation isn't available.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

## CROP REPORTS

**Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville, Fla.:** "A little more peanut acreage has been planted in this part

of Florida since this time last week, maybe 5%. People with dryland acreage and sandier soils haven't been able to do much this week. They were still planting in heavier soils last week where they could find a little moisture.

"Maybe a third of our crop is planted now. A good rain would get things rolling again and help us finish the crop off, but we haven't had it yet. For the most part, growers also are waiting for a rain to gain a good flush of weeds so they can make cracking sprays."

**Marla Faver, Baldwin County Extension Agent, Bay Minnette, Ala.:** "We're close to 50% planted, and it may actually be somewhat above that by today (Thursday). But we've run out of moisture for germination in parts of the county. Everybody is hoping for rain. Some people

put out peanut herbicides because showers were in the forecast, and they're hoping now that the rain will materialize. Even just north of us in Escambia County they've gotten rain recently. But we're getting drier."

**Dallas Hartzog, Alabama Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.:** "Planting progress has been moving along nicely. Growers have been planting steadily for 2 weeks now, and most have made extremely good progress. Some of the first peanuts planted have emerged to what appears to be a perfect stand.

"The soil has been warm and the weather generally hasn't been a problem. But we're getting to the place that we have little or no topsoil moisture, and we need a rain. We're in a weather pattern now with mostly these

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little hit-or-miss showers.

“Cracking sprays will start shortly. A few broadleaf weeds are emerging. If the weather is open next week where there’s been enough moisture for weed emergence, then more spraying may start. But we’re at the point that we don’t need to move too fast. If we go with a contact spray but there’s still a good flush of weeds just under the soil surface than we’ll have to come back later.”

**Mike Donahoe, Santa Rosa County Extension Leader, Milton, Fla.:** “We’ve had an excellent planting season with good moisture, and most of the crops are planted now. Peanuts are up and growing. This is a lot different from last year when it was drier.

“At least 90% of our peanuts have been planted. We didn’t start extremely early. The oldest ones now were planted 2-3 weeks ago. There was enough concern about tomato spotted wilt virus that people held off a little longer than in the past.”

**John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton,**

**Ga.:** “Planting is going full speed. We’re right in the middle of what I think is our peak planting season. The question of rain, though, is hanging over us right now. Many areas haven’t had appreciable rainfall in 2 weeks. We’ve gone from very good moisture to the point that the top 2-4" are dry.

“Some growers who can’t irrigate are now holding off on more planting until it rains. But where they can plant 2" to 2.5" deep, they’re doing it.

“Nobody is quite to the point that they feel pressure to force peanuts into dry soil. But by next weekend we’ll be facing the May 25 crop insurance deadline, and people may be sticking them in the ground then.

“We need to keep scouting for weeds. It’s easy with all the planting to overlook opportunities to make timely cracking sprays on young, easily controlled weeds. If you’ve got enough moisture to germinate peanuts then there’s enough to bring up weeds.”

**Mark Hawke, UAP, Albany, Ga.:** “We had all that rain, and

then it dried off pretty quickly, but a lot of work got done in a short time. Our peanuts are close to 50% planted, maybe even a little more. We are behind on peanuts, but nobody wanted to start early due to concerns about tomato spotted wilt virus. We’ve gotten a lot done in 10 days, but the ground is getting hard, and we need a rain again.

“We started a few cracking sprays this week. But it will take a good shower to get a thorough flush of weeds. Peanuts planted on May 1 are up to a good stand but, again, they need rain.