

PeanutFax: Southeast

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Here is this week's *PeanutFax*, sponsored by the Southeast field staff of **Nichino America**, maker of **Artisan**[®] peanut fungicide and **ET**[®] herbicide/defoliant.

OVERVIEW

Pressure from foliage feeders has picked up in a number of areas. People are finding worms in the field and seeing "cow birds" grazing on them among the rows.

In much of the Southeast the only pivot motors not running are the ones that are broken. Many areas need a rain. Virginia, however, isn't one of them. Some spots have measured 15" or more of rain in the last 10 days, and growers are desperately trying to catch up on fungicide applications.

These reports were made Wednesday afternoon and

Thursday.

CROP REPORTS

Howard Small Jr., Ind. Consultant, Colquitt, Ga.: "Peanuts are looking good. We blasted our first sample today (Wednesday) on peanuts that hit 114 days, and it showed 24 days remaining. That's where they're suppose to be. It looks like September 1 will be our kickoff day, with the big push starting after Labor Day.

"It's been hot, and we need a rain. We're irrigating. They're talking about showers Friday and maybe cooler weather moving into the area on Saturday, and that would help. Disease isn't a real problem. Some foliage feeding is going on, but not much."

Pat Phipps, Virginia Extension Plant Pathologist:

"With all the rain, everybody is either behind or struggling to

keep up with spraying. We had 5.1" in June, which is a little above normal, then another 12.53" here (Tidewater REC, Suffolk), and some of our peanut counties actually registered more than that. A lot of folks haven't been able to treat in more than 2 weeks and some are going on 3 weeks.

"People are worried. These conditions certainly favor disease. We've got leafspot, though not real bad, along with web blotch, sclerotinia and Southern stem rot. Through our program, we issue a leafspot advisory, and that usually calls for spraying about every 21 days, but it's been tightened up to 12 days a couple of times already. I'm afraid that's sort of academic, since growers can't get out there and spray."

Ron Weeks, Extension Entomologist, Headland, Ala.:

Continued on next page...

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“We’re seeing a little increase in insect activity in peanuts. I’m hearing of a few fields reaching treatment levels with worms. It’s sort of a mixed bag — fall armyworms, cutworms and velvetbean caterpillars. Only a small percentage of fields are being sprayed. But, in general, we’re seeing a few more worms in all the peanuts across the state.”

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: “Any rain lately has been extremely isolated. Farmers are irrigating like crazy. I was in areas between Sylvester and Camilla today (Wednesday), and peanuts were showing signs of stress. Our non-irrigated peanuts need rain on a wide basis. After very decent rains in June and early July, this dry spell is hitting when peanuts are moving into peak pod fill. With a few more weeks like this, we could see yield potential drop.

“We’re not to the point that it’s bad yet. We’ve been through little dry spells before and then things turned around. Good rains, lower temperatures and higher humidity would steer us in the right direction again.

“Clay County and some of our western counties have actually gotten pretty good rains, and non-irrigated fields look great. But the north-central part of Georgia — up to Dublin and Cochran — has really suffered.

“Disease has kind of shut down, simply due to low humidity. And it’s hot, too. There’s still

some disease pressure out there, but not like it would be if humidity was up. Tomato spotted wilt virus is showing itself now. We’re seeing more and more fields with significant amounts.

“But at the moment, insects may be more of a problem than disease. A lot of farmers are seeing foliage feeders increase. It’s mostly corn earworms and fall armyworms moving out of corn into peanuts. Loopers are around, too. Three-cornered alfalfaoppers are damaging peanuts in places.”

Edward Kane, Ind. Crop Consultant, Robertsdale, Ala.: “Over the weekend some areas got up to 3” of rain, but other places missed it altogether or only got a few tenths. Those fields that got little or no rain are drying out and could use a shower. We’re doing our last little bit of herbicide work and staying on a steady fungicide program. A ground rig can work in most fields. A mixture of worms is turning up in peanuts, and we’re treating in a few places.”

“Some leafspot is evident, but nothing out of the ordinary. I haven’t seen any white mold. We started finding tomato spotted wilt virus in the last 1-2 weeks in our earliest peanuts. They were planted in the last week of April after a lot of rain and just before we got more rain, and they struggled to make a stand.”

Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville,

Fla.: “Peanuts are still doing pretty good. Rainfall has been localized, and a lot of fields haven’t been getting enough to keep up. Plants are using about a quarter-inch a day, and most places I’ve been haven’t received that much lately. There are no serious water shortages yet, but rains haven’t been as consistent and frequent as we need.

“We’ll have some peanuts dug in the next 2-3 weeks. Extension agents are getting rigged up for maturity index work. Some leafhopper damage is evident, but we’re not having a bad insect year, overall. Rust was found in Levy County last week, which is about when we expect to see it.”

Bobby Boutwell, Royster-Clark Farmmarket, Jay, Fla.: “With the exceptions of 1-2 little dry spots, we’ve got prospects for as good a crop as we had last year. A farmer said today (Wednesday) he will start digging in 3 weeks. A few worms are turning up in peanuts, but a little Lannate is knocking them out. We’re seeing very little disease. One fellow did mention that he’s finding some tomato spotted wilt virus.”