

# PeanutFax: Southeast

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

## OVERVIEW

Parts of the region have adequate moisture — and an over-abundance in places.

Peanut counties in Virginia have received steady rains for the last 10-14 days. Across the rest of the region, the moisture situation varies. You can find fields that are pretty much saturated and others where drought stress is the operative term.

These reports were made Wednesday evening and Thursday.

## CROP REPORTS

**Dallas Hartzog, Alabama**

**Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.:** "We're at the crossroads. We've got at least moderate to good prospects, as things look now. If we get some more rain, we can make a pretty good crop. If it turns dry now, we'll make fewer peanuts.

"The availability of rain is going to be the main influence between now and harvest. I'm seeing a good many peanuts wilting. The last rains that came through our peanut belt were not very general, and they missed a lot of places. Most growers have caught up with their fungicide schedules. The worm situation is still light."

**Marla Faver, Baldwin County Extension Agent, Bay Minnette, Ala.:** "Growers are working on weeds in a few fields where they got away from us during the wet period.

Most people have stayed on schedule with fungicides.

Where they couldn't get in fields by ground they had materials flown on, and our overall peanut disease control right now is good.

"Things are holding up well in terms of moisture. We've got a pretty good chance for rain this weekend, and that could help tide us over for a little while."

**Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Agronomist:** "It's been raining 10-14 days here,

and the forecast calls for more showers over the next several days. We haven't had any sunlight. We don't have a good handle, yet, on how this will affect pegging. At first, we were getting what would be considered very good rains, but now it's too much. This is going to have some effect on disease pressure. We've had humidity levels in the 90% range or

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higher just about every day. Making any kind of treatment has been difficult in these conditions.”

**David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.:** “Peanuts, in general, look pretty good. I do see some yellowing in spots, which may simply be due to excessive moisture. I pulled up plants in one location, and they weren’t nodulated that well, which could be a result of saturated soils. But peanuts are putting on nuts, too, and also that could be stressing plants in some fields.

“Some leafspot is showing up. Farmers are going to have to make sure they’re timely with fungicides, especially if wet weather continues. We wouldn’t turn down a 1” rain right now. Parts of the state have gotten a good deal of rain lately. An Extension agent told me that one area between Live Oak and Gainesville received 29” in 30 days.”

**Mark Mitchell, Mitchell Ag Consulting, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.:** “A lot of leafspot is showing up, even where we’ve been able to keep up with fungicide treatments. It’s certainly heavier than normal. White mold, on the other hand, has been relatively low. Tomato spotted wilt virus is increasing in our older peanuts. You can see a difference in planting dates. The older fields definitely have more. We’re putting out Classic for beggarweed.

“We’ve treated some foliage feeders, primarily where we put out Lorsban granules earlier. A couple of fields were treated last week for Southern corn root worms. They weren’t quite at threshold, but the grower opted to make an application.

“My oldest peanuts are 110-115 days old this week. Some boiling peanuts are scheduled to come out on August 17. Within 30 days we’ll be plowing up quite a few of our older peanuts.”

**John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.:** “This week we’ve had more widely scattered rain. Some areas, in fact, got intense rain. Other places missed showers altogether and are showing signs of drought stress. That’s mainly in our far eastern and north-central production counties. But, overall, we’re in fairly decent shape with moisture.

“Most people have caught up on fungicide applications. John Baldwin and I just looked at a field in Calhoun County that’s got probably the worst tomato spotted wilt virus we’ve seen all season. It’s bad in about half the field. There are 3 fields around it, but that’s the only one where it’s showing up heavily.

“We’re seeing more foliage feeding insects. I haven’t been in any fields with treatable levels yet, but I’ve found cutworms, corn earworms and loopers. We’re still seeing three-cornered alfalfa hopper

damage, and I’ve gotten 1-2 calls about leaf hoppers.”

**Jay Chapin, Extension Specialist - Peanuts, Blackville, S.C.:** “Not everyone has been blessed with showers this week, and a few fields still don’t have much of a crop started due to drought. But, overall, the crop is in very good shape at this point, and it has been encouraging to have showers popping up somewhere every afternoon.

“We’ve had several reports of pods with shriveled kernels. This is due to calcium deficiency caused by drought stress. The only cure is water. No matter how much land plaster is put out, the soil has to be wet for it to enter the pods. Even these isolated drought-stressed fields still have time to make a profitable crop with timely rain over the next 2 months.

“It’s pretty clear by now that we will have the most tomato spotted wilt that we have ever had in South Carolina peanuts. Most states seem to be reporting that the virus in peanuts is less severe than 2 years ago, and in other South Carolina crops it is also apparently less severe. But in peanuts we have more.

“We can still make good peanut yields with a lot of virus symptoms. There is nothing we can do about virus now, anyway. Some variety differences are showing up. In a split field planted May 9, Va 98R had about 5 times the virus incidence of Gregory.”