

PeanutFax: Southeast

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Here is this week's *PeanutFax*, sponsored by Nichino America, maker of **Artisan**® peanut fungicide and **ET**® herbicide/defoliant

OVERVIEW

Most areas have adequate moisture, and sporadic showers and thunderstorms continue to develop on a wide basis every day. Heavy rains over the last 2 weeks have left plants with a yellow look in many cases, but a little open weather is giving them a chance to "green up" again.

With delays and washoffs due to rain, leafspot has gained a bit in places. No heavy insect pressure is being reported.

These reports were made Wednesday and Thursday.

CROP REPORTS

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist,

Quincy, Fla.: "Peanuts generally look good. A lot of people are into fungicide sprays and trying to stay on schedule with all the rainfall we've been having. They're hopping around, looking for fields that are dry enough.

"A few fields don't seem to be growing as well as they should, and these may be cases where soil is a little too wet. But one of the growers who called was having trouble with growth in a sandy field, and he planned to come back with ammonium sulfate to spur some top growth.

"I've been across the Panhandle in the last couple of days, and everyone has gotten rain. It ranges from almost a perfect amount of rain to some places where it's too wet."

Edward Kane, Ind. Crop Consultant, Robertsdale, Ala.: "Peanuts are in good shape. We're about to get most

of our weeds settled down. We're heavily into leafspot spraying and have started white mold treatments on our oldest fields. The weather threw us off somewhat. With all the rain, we had to go by air on a few acres just to get something out. We've also tightened up the schedule in places where rains might have washed off fungicides. We're trying to fit the program to the situation."

"We had rain pretty much for 2 weeks, and soils were saturated in places. Rain slacked up last Friday and Saturday. We've still had showers and more is in the forecast tonight (Wednesday). Now that the sun is shining, the crop's color looks incredibly better. It had really yellowed in those waterlogged soils."

Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Peanut Agrono-

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What fungicide...

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mist: “We have seen *sclerotinia* in Virginia. Pat Phipps (Extension plant pathologist) expected that it would show up after it was found in North Carolina in late June. Higher temperatures will likely stall it a little. We’ve had good rainfall. Showers have been mostly scattered, but they’ve been spread out enough that we’ve mostly received timely rainfalls on much of the crop. In about half the fields the plants are shaking hands in the middles, which is what we hope for on July 4th.”

Ron Weeks, Extension Entomologist, Headland, Ala.: “Peanuts are pretty free of insects, just a few worms here and there, mostly cutworms. I’m not aware of anything being sprayed. We’re seeing a little activity with leafhoppers and three-cornered alfalfa hoppers. Some scouts and consultants are wondering if they should spray. This is the time that we treat if we’re seeing a lot of those insects active in peanuts.

“It appears, based on traps and what we’ve seen in the field, that we’ve been on the verge of problems with lesser cornstalk borers all season. We happened to have caught rains often enough to prevent an outbreak. Even with all the rain, we’ve seen an occasional one in the field. That tells us there must have been a fair number available.

If we had gone into a prolonged spell of hot, dry weather, they would have covered us up. There’s still potential for this insect to build if we do slip into a drier pattern.

“With this extended rainy period and the quantities of rain in some places, we’re seeing more leafspot than we might expect, considering the number of treatments made. Some of this is in areas where we do have more pressure. No doubt, some of this also is due to materials being washed off.”

Howard Small Jr., Ind. Consultant, Colquitt, Ga.: “We’re getting dry again in spots and are watering part of our peanuts, something less than 25% of the crop. We started last week in sandy areas where we mostly have our older peanuts. The heat index early in the week hit 105-108, and those peanuts need .3” of water a day just to keep them at a maintenance level.

“Rains are spotty now. Some weedy fields are getting attention. A few lesser cornstalk borers are around, but nothing requiring a treatment.

“Tomato spotted wilt virus is apparent in places. Peanuts planted in the first 2 weeks of April are showing 20-25% hits. The percentages fall off as we get into later planting dates. I’m not seeing anything I’d call severe. But it’s apparently been tough in tobacco, tomatoes and watermelons. There are no serious problems with leafspot.

“We’ve lost a few acres to drowning, but that’s okay. It’s a good looking crop, and whenever it rains it makes things easier for everybody.”

John Baldwin, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: “We’ve had excellent rain in the last 2 weeks.

Some places have gotten plenty and there are areas that probably could use more. It continues to be variable. Last night I got .3” at my home, but 9 miles north of me they measured 3.5”.

“There still are a lot of yellowing peanuts, especially in east Georgia. People want to apply nitrogen, but I’m telling them to hold off and wait for nodulation to kick in again.

“We’re seeing this all over the state to some extent. It’s partly due to waterlogged soils. There also are areas where the weather was drier earlier, and nitrogen fixing fell off. When it did rain, peanuts started growing quickly, and they outpaced the reserve.

“With a little time, they’ll start looking better. We just hope the rain keeps coming. We can make peanuts with yellow plants, and there’s no point in spending money on fertilizer if plants are going to bounce back on their own.

“A few minor weed escapes are around. Leafspot is getting a good start in places where treatments might not have started on time or there were delays due to rain. We have situations, too, where materials were washed off. And grass herbicides applied with crop oil are causing some burn that’s, no doubt, being mistaken for leafspot.”