

PeanutFax: Southeast

Owen Taylor, Editor (owen@agfax.com, 888-327-6329)

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

OVERVIEW

Much of the region has received rain in the last week, and some areas continue getting showers every day or so. The weather pattern is keeping sprayers out of the field in places, and that's delaying fungicide and herbicide applications.

No wide-spread pest problems are turning up this week.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

CROP REPORTS

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: "Most of the crop looks real good. There are patches here and there where disease has started or weeds

are coming up, but those are the exceptions. A lot of gypsum has been spread between showers, but we're still getting a frequent number of local, heavy thunderstorms. Totals have varied widely. One location near here got 3.7" in the course of several showers. At my house, though, I've only measured about an inch of accumulation with 2 small showers.

"Showers have kept things humid, which is ideal for disease. Most growers are on their second fungicide application. Overall, though, conditions also are pretty good for peanuts. They're pegging down pretty nicely. I don't know of anyplace hurting for rain, and some places could stand to dry out a little."

Steve Brown, Extension Entomologist, Tifton, Ga.: "Lesser cornstalk borers, at least temporarily, have become a moot point. Showers have been scattered, but they picked

up somewhat in the last few days. We're finding a few lessers, but nothing treatable. If it turns dry again, they might be back.

"Southern corn rootworms aren't a problem right now, but if it stays wet they could become an issue in heavier soils in west Georgia. In those areas it's generally recommended every year that growers treat with Lorsban on a preventive basis.

"We've had cutworms in some fields, and treatments were made. There were a few cases where they had to be re-treated. That's probably related to rates used on the first application."

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: "Most people are into or finishing their first fungicide application or maybe starting on their second. Rain has delayed both herbicide and
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fungicide work. Peanuts are starting to bloom pretty heavily. I'm seeing nutsedge in most fields right now, and it's probably our main weed problem. But with all this rain, we'll soon have other weeds to take out.

"Generally, we've got good moisture. Showers have been scattered, but there have been enough of them that nearly everyone has gotten rain. Some spots could use more, but I don't think anyone is suffering right now."

Trey Bullock, Bullock's Ag Consulting, Hattiesburg, Miss.: "With all the rain, I can't see us achieving what for us are normal yields. It's not a total loss. About half our stands look pretty good, considering what we've been through. But the other half of our stands don't look promising.

"Due to all the rain, we've got cotton and peanuts that won't be planted. One grower has 500 acres that may go into soybeans, although that's not the best alternative with peanuts. Some areas are getting 1.5" of rain just about every day."

Dallas Hartzog, Alabama Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.: "We've had some light rains, some moderate rains and some excessive ones. With all the rain, most of our growers are behind on herbicide applications, fungicide treatments or both. Drier conditions would help us all catch up. But everybody is afraid to wish too hard for dry weather

because then we might get more of that than we really want."

Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Peanut Agronomist: "Rains have fallen in the last week, and wide areas picked up about 1" or more, and they're calling for more tonight (Friday). Corn is at a critical stage, so showers came at a good time.

"Peanuts look good and are ahead of schedule. A lot of them are blooming and starting to peg. Tomato spotted wilt virus is showing up in peanuts. Some folks have already started fungicide sprays."

Mike Donahoe, Santa Rosa County Extension Leader, Milton, Fla.: "Peanuts are looking good and are starting to peg. I've seen fields that are about to cover the middles. Like people in a lot of places this year, we're finding a fair amount of tomato spotted wilt virus.

"Fungicides need to be going out, but we've had a lot of rain and I'm afraid some growers are waiting for the weather to break so they can go by ground. In these conditions you don't want to wait too long. Some planes are flying over peanuts this week."

Rick L. Brandenburg, Extension Entomologist, North Carolina State University: "In many areas, adequate soil moisture has contributed to good growth, and early season thrips damage is starting to disappear. There are some signs

of leafhopper feeding. If you plan to apply insecticide for rootworms, this application will also control leafhoppers. The symptoms of tomato spotted wilt virus are now starting to show. As the weather becomes hot, the plants will be stressed and many more plants with symptoms will begin appearing.

"This doesn't mean that the virus is being spread by thrips, but rather plants were infected early and the signs are just starting to show. Do not apply additional insecticide for thrips control if you start to see a lot of virus. You will be wasting money. If you plan to treat for rootworms but have not, now is the time to get that treatment in the field."