

PeanutFax: Southeast

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

JUNE 4, 2004

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

OVERVIEW

Rain this week fell throughout most of our coverage area. Growers received 1-2" on a wide basis, and totals ran 4" or more in spots. After 3-4 weeks of dry conditions across a large part of the Southeast, the rain was needed.

Two problems loom over the southern half of the region, both related to dry spring weather. Tomato spotted wilt virus has gained an opening in numerous fields planted in late April and early May. And lesser cornstalk borers have built past threshold in portions of Florida and Georgia.

These reports were made Thursday afternoon and Friday.

CROP REPORTS

John Baldwin, Georgia Ex-

tension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: "Rains over the last 2 days have been scattered. In areas south of here it hadn't rained in 2 weeks, so it was very much needed. Totals range from zero up to 3". Areas west of Interstate 75 got from zero to 3-4". The systems moved across Alabama and then started breaking up. Generally, a lot of growers did get rain. But there were no concentrated fronts, and we still have dry areas.

"Overall, we're 85-90% planted. There are some tough decisions to be made where it didn't rain. Generally, we discourage planting deep. People are probably better off keeping seed in the bag and waiting for rain.

"This season already has had its share of complications. March was the driest on record, then we got scattered showers in April. Heavy thrips developed in late April and early May. Stands came up pretty decently, but it was too dry to get optimum activation of in-furrow materials, and there wasn't much to hold back the thrips. Tomato spotted wilt virus

(TSWV) is now as heavy as we've seen it in several years on these early plantings. Some tobacco has already been plowed up due to it.

"This year is certain different from 2003 when we had one of the wettest Marches on the books, plus good rain all along, and light TSWV. Overall, stands look pretty good. On peanuts planted 35-40 days ago we're reaching the threshold on what herbicides we can use. I know a lot of people want to spray thrips, but our research shows no real gain from that, plus you knock out beneficial insects."

Kris Balkcom, Agri Program Assistant, Wiregrass Research and Extension Center, Headland, Ala.: "We've finished planting and got good rainfall amounts this week, in the 2-7" range. We needed the rain, and we'll have everything up to a solid stand now except places where there were washouts. In most places the rain either soaked in or moved off fields pretty quickly.

Continued on next page...

PeanutFax is sponsored by...



**From Nichino America.
For details about Artisan[®]
visit our website at nichino.net**

©2004 Nichino America, Inc. ARTISAN[®] is a registered trademark of Nichino America, Inc. Farm Safely. Always read and follow label directions.

PeanutFax: Southeast is published by Looking South Communications, 142 Westlake Drive, Brandon, Miss. 39047. Phone: 601-992-9488, Fax: 601-992-3503. E-mail: owen@agfax.com. Editor: Owen Taylor. It is transmitted via fax or e-mail each week during the peanut production season. PeanutFax is free to growers, consultants, Extension workers, dealers and other qualifying industry professionals. ©MMIV Looking South Communications

There was some hail damage in the Slocomb area, and reports are that it mainly damaged tomatoes, corn and cotton.”

Mark Mitchell, Mitchell Ag Consulting, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.: “We’ve gotten 2-5” of rain this week. I just drove by a field with water standing on about 20 acres of young plants, and that will be lost if the water doesn’t move off quickly.

“Lesser cornstalk borers are heavy. Last Saturday I found more of them than I have in any other single day in my career. They were running 50% pretty widely in some fields and up to 100% in places.

“Wet conditions make them harder to find, and it may reduce the problem. I’m not nearly as concerned as I was a week ago, on one hand, but there were so many of them last week that I can’t ignore the potential for more problems. If I find them at or above threshold this weekend we will treat. It’s been difficult most of the week to find them since it has been so wet. Today (Friday) is the first day since Monday that it hasn’t rained.

“We’ve made two fungicide applications on our older peanuts. As soon as we can get in the field again we will start our fungicide program on most of our later fields. There’s more tomato spotted wilt virus than I want to see. In some of our early fields it’s running 5-10%.”

Marla Faver, Baldwin County Extension Agent, Bay Minnette, Ala.: “Peanuts look like they’re doing good. We just need to be able to get in the field and make fungicide applications and burn down weeds. Some fungicide applications may start this weekend, and they should be going at least by early next week. Over the last 3-4 days we’ve got

ten 1.5” to 6” of rain. That’s delayed late planting behind wheat. Most of the crop, though, is up and growing. We have some twin-row peanuts this year and more strip-till plantings.”

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: “With the dry weather, we’ve seen quite a bit of lesser cornstalk borer activity. The rain will help. It will at least start peanuts growing. Growers were treating in a number of fields where the insects were above threshold. Those fields were dry, and pegs were getting worked over.

“Pegging is pretty widespread. Gypsum is going out, too. We’re definitely seeing tomato spotted wilt virus in the earlier fields. A lot of our growers did hold off planting peanuts and started with cotton, and right now the later planted fields look okay.”

Rusty Harris, Worth County Extension Agent, Sylvester, Ga.: “Peanuts look okay for the moment. They started out dry. A little replanting has been going on, but the crop is growing well, otherwise. Some of the very earliest fields are blooming now. Fields planted in late April are approaching the first fungicide treatments, but the majority of the crop is a couple of weeks from the first application.”

Joel Fairthcloth, Virginia Extension Cotton Agronomist: “Peanuts are coming right along. They needed the rain we’re getting today (Friday). We’ve been looking at some herbicide injury. With this warm spring, they’ve come out of it pretty good. The only thing that worries me is that some of our later-maturing varieties might have been set back to the point that it will be difficult to fully finish out the crop. I found a little tomato spotted wilt virus in

a couple of fields last week. I haven’t heard anything alarming, though. A couple of people have been spraying thrips. At this point, we could flare mites with Orthene, so that’s a point to be cautious about. I’ve opted not to treat any of mine. There’s probably not that much to worry about where we’ve got Temik.”

Steve Brown, Extension Entomologist, Tifton, Ga.: “The first field generation of lesser cornstalk borers is cycling out on us right now. The rains this week came right at the tail end of that generation. We’ve had extremely heavy pressure in some fields. We’re between generations right now, and the rain makes it more difficult to find them. A lot of times people will think they’ve gone away. But with heavy infestations like we’ve seen, it takes an extended period of wet weather to bring them under control. Spotty showers aren’t enough.

“The rain might make them harder to find but, in fact, they still could be out there. The second field generation could be very evident in 1-2 weeks if it dries up.

“Tomato spotted wilt virus is really going to be nasty this year. We had a slow year in 2003, but it started in 2004 with a vengeance. For this time of the year we’re seeing it at near-record levels in peanuts. There’s work being done on using winter weeds as a predictor of how bad it could be in field crops. That idea looks promising, based on the forecast and outcome over the last 2 years. This year spotted wilt was quite heavy in those weeds, so we have that as a circumstantial indicator.

“In fields planted in late April it’s heavy. It’s hard to rate them this early. When I was in a field this week that had a heavy lesser cornstalk borer infestation I could glance around and easily see 6-8 hits.”