

PeanutFax: Southeast

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

OVERVIEW

This crop needs a rain. Across much of our coverage area, it's been 3 weeks or longer since the last significant rainfall. Planting has stopped in a few locations. But with the deadline looming for full crop insurance coverage, some of the last acres will be seeded this weekend.

Parts of Virginia did receive rains in the last week, with totals up to 1.4" in places.

The weather forecasts we checked don't call for much in the way of near-term relief.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

CROP REPORTS

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: "It's dry. Some portions of the state are in pretty decent shape in terms of moisture. These tend to be across north Florida. They got rain in early May. But even some of those places have gone for nearly a month without showers, and soil is drying out in a hurry.

"There are numerous places in our production counties that have only had 2 significant rains since late February. In this county, we're 10" below normal for the year. I was at a field day yesterday (Thursday) near Ocala, and it was extremely dry there, too.

"In general, peanut planting has moved along quickly. We're close to 90% planted. Over the next week I expect that most planting will finish

up, not due to any predicted rainfall but simply the fact that growers are facing the crop insurance dilemma.

"I've seen some tomato spotted wilt virus on peanuts that probably were planted in early to mid April. It's being found in tomatoes, and it looks like this could be a bad year for it in that crop. I hope that's not an indication of what it will be like in peanuts."

Dallas Hartzog, Alabama Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.:

"We've not had rains since last Friday, and those showers were scattered. Our peanut belt needs a general rain. We've essentially finished planting, just isolated fields here and there are left. Except for the very last fields planted, most have at least partly emerged or are up to a pretty

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good stand. Most growers are either preparing to make cracking time sprays or are about to start.

“And it’s not very long before we’ll begin spraying for leaf diseases. Most growers will be looking at chlorothalonil treatments in 1-2 weeks.”

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: “We’re really dry now. Planting of dryland peanuts has stopped. People are waiting to see what happens. My guess is that about 90% of the crop has been planted. Most growers wanted to wrap up planting by May 25 or, certainly, by the end of this week. There’s no moisture in the top 3-4" of soil. It’s all gone, and the forecast for the next week or so isn’t very hopeful.

“Growers who planted in the last part of April and the first part of May will be ready to put on gypsum in the next week or two, and we’re getting calls about how much to put on, if any, and when. The first fungicide treatments on peanuts planted in late April also could begin next week. At least, anyone with irrigation will have to be thinking about starting those real soon.

“There has been a lot of activity from thrips, and we’re already finding tomato spotted wilt virus. John Baldwin, Jay Williams (Extension ag engineer) and I were checking plots Thursday on the station and found it in peanuts that were planted 3 weeks ago.”

Jay Chapin, Extension Specialist-Peanuts, Blackville, S.C.: “Our peanuts are planted, and most are out of the ground. Rain has been spotty, causing some concerns about activation of Dual, Valor or Prowl. Peanut production is all about weed control for the next several weeks. Probably the most important issue for growers right now is checking fields to decide if and when paraquat and/or 2,4-DB will be needed prior to Cadre application.

“Check all newly emerged field for thrips stunting where granular in-furrow treatments may have stopped up. Don’t worry about an isolated row or two, but don’t tolerate areas of a field being held back by thrips, especially if damaged (black) terminals are seen. Treat immediately with Orthene 97 (6-8 oz/ac) or Karate (1 gal/70 ac). Foliar treatment won’t necessarily reduce tomato spotted wilt virus. But even without considering virus, thrips stunting alone will cause direct yield loss.”

Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville, Fla.: “Everyone pretty much stopped planting in a lot of dryland fields a week or more ago, and there hasn’t been much rain anyplace since then, just light showers here and there. It’s not just that it hasn’t rained lately. We’ve got low humidity, high temperatures and a good deal of wind, and all that has taken away

the moisture.”

Trey Bullock Bullock’s Ag Consulting, Hattiesburg, Miss.: “We really got hammered by all the weather in the first half of May. In 8 days we got about 20" of rain. It came after we actually had a relatively dry spring. In fact, we delayed a lot of early planting because we didn’t have moisture. After we caught a rain, everyone jumped in the field. But then the really wet period started, and we got hammered.

“Our sandy soils really crusted. I’ve never seen peanuts get in a bind like they’re in this year. Peanuts we planted before the rain are still viable, and a few more seedlings are coming up all the time. But a quarter- to a half-inch of rain right now would really help soften up the soil surface and improve emergence.”

Mike Donahoe, Santa Rosa County Extension Leader, Milton, Fla.: “Probably 95% of our peanuts have been planted and about 85% are up. We do need rain. Parts of the county got showers last Tuesday, but a good portion of this area missed them. It looks like a dust storm where people are working fields.”