

# PeanutFax: Southeast

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

## OVERVIEW

Hurricane Frances delayed harvest in some areas, but no big problems are being reported.

The big question now is whether Hurricane Ivan will move into the Peanut Belt next week. Peanuts are being dug and combined on a wider basis this week, and the pace will pick up next week, weather permitting.

These reports were made Thursday and Friday.

## CROP REPORTS

**John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.:** "Rainfall amounts ranged

from maybe a couple of inches on the far western side of the state up to 9-12" in Appling and Jeff Davis Counties. Totals at Tifton were 6-7". The biggest effect, it seems, is that all this delayed harvest. But we're still early enough that it won't be a big problem. And in places, folks already are in the field.

"I was in Decatur County today (Thursday), and they were digging and combining peanuts. About 15% of the crop there already has been harvested. They got less rain and have sandier soils, plus they had a fair amount of fields planted early.

"Someone pointed out that there are areas with a lot of late-planted peanuts, and the rain should help bring them along.

"The thing we've got to remember at this point is that, even though the field may be dry enough for equipment to stand up, it may not be quite

dry enough for optimum harvest. On heavier soils I'd be concerned about moist dirt balling up around peanuts and pulling them off.

"There is concern about Hurricane Ivan. If it comes in next week then we could get into delays that might have more impact."

**Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Agronomist:** "A lot of disease is showing up, mainly CBR. A couple of producers said they are seeing it in parts of fields where it's never showed up in the past. Quite a bit of spotted wilt is around, too.

"The bottom line is that we need to get this crop out of the ground as soon as it's ready. It's still too early to say, for sure, whether Ivan will affect us, but a hurricane would not be good for the crop right now. A couple of folks have started digging,

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but I don't know anything about their planting dates or how the peanuts looked in terms of maturity

"We really dodged the bullet with Hurricane Frances. Most places got less than an inch of rain. It's been an odd year for weather. We haven't gotten tremendously big rains but the frequency of rainfall has been nearly constant. About the time things dry up, it rains again."

**Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville, Fla.:** "We'll probably lose some peanuts in low-lying areas where water pooled, but I don't think we suffered serious crop damage in this part of the state, overall, due to Frances. We have the advantage of mostly growing peanuts in sandier soils. I saw one field dug right after Frances passed, and those peanuts were ready to come out. Some people are trying to get peanuts out now before the next hurricane hits."

"Overall, Frances has delayed things. Peanuts haven't

come out nearly as fast as they would have if conditions had been more normal. Unfortunately, we don't have good drying conditions today (Friday). It's cloudy, with a 60% chance of rain. This is one of those years when it really paid to keep up a good leafspot program and maintain vine health in case weather delayed harvest."

**David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.:** "A lot of peanuts are being dug. I drove across parts of 3 counties this morning (Friday) and saw a lot of peanuts on the ground. Some people already were running combines yesterday afternoon. Most of the buying points have at least a few loads now."

**Rocky Sumblin, UAP, Kinston, Ala.:** "Four or five farmers have actually started running their combines, so a few acres have been harvested. More peanuts are being dug. Worms are being treated in

some of the younger peanuts."

**David Jordan, North Carolina Extension Peanut Specialist:** "A few peanuts are being dug in North Carolina this week. Pod blasting clinics indicate that some acreage can be dug the later part of next week. However, most peanuts will not reach optimum maturity until the following week (September 20-26) or later."

"Growers are advised to check fields closely, but a little earlier than last year. Although the crop appears to be ahead of last year, growers still need to look at individual fields."