

# PeanutFax: Southeast

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Here is our first issue of *PeanutFax* for 2005.

Thanks to the Southeast field staff of **Nichino America** for once again sponsoring this newsletter.

We also very much appreciate the cooperation of the consultants, dealer reps and Extension personnel who provide the reports that make PeanutFax possible.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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## OVERVIEW

We made a spot check of planting progress this week across our coverage area and found – not surprisingly – that it continues to run be-

hinds. Cold conditions in April and the first half of May discouraged planting in many areas, and heavy rains in some locations also stalled planting progress.

Cotton and peanut planting also were put on hold across parts of the region by delays in corn planting in March and early April.

Peanuts are emerging, and a few fields are up to the fourth true leaf. But a portion of the crop is still in the ground or in the sack.

Rains over the last week have slowed planting in parts of Virginia and South Carolina. Areas in Georgia have gotten too dry in the last week for planting to continue except where growers could irrigate.

As we closed out this issue

Friday night, parts of the region had received more rain. Our Southeast radar showed a system curling through central Alabama, moving across parts of central and southern Georgia and edging into the eastern sides of North Carolina and South Carolina.

## CROP REPORTS

**Mike Donahoe, Santa Rosa County Extension Leader, Milton, Fla.:** “About three-fourths of our peanuts have been planted. Probably more cotton has been planted than peanuts simply because of the moisture situation. Growers went ahead and planted cotton into available moisture earlier, since they could always plant peanuts a little deeper to find

*Continued on next page...*



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moisture.

“Peanuts are just coming up. We’re late, but that’s probably okay because we’ve been needing to plant peanuts a little later due to tomato spotted wilt virus. It rained about 3 inches in Milton last Sunday, and a number of other areas in the county got 1-2 inches.”

**John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.:** “It’s turned off pretty dry, and we could use a rain now. It was wet coming out of April, but the thing that delayed planting as much as the rain was the cool weather. Soil temperatures were very marginal until late April, and things finally started warming up in the first week of May.

“And now it’s gotten too dry for non-irrigated peanuts. We’re lagging behind on planting, which isn’t surprising when you lose 1-2 weeks on the front end. Where growers can irrigate, they’re planting as fast as they can.

“There’s a lot of interest in peanuts in southeast Georgia

this year. I still think we’ll plant pretty close to the USDA’s estimate last month of 750,000 acres.”

**Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Agronomist:** “This may not be the year for a late-maturing Virginia-type variety like Perry. We’ll need a lot of heat units this summer to make up for this slow start. Part of the delay in planting peanuts has been due to the delays in planting cotton.

“Right now it’s too wet to get in the field. We’ve caught 1 to 1.5 inches of rain over parts of our production area in the last week, and we’re supposed to get another 2-3 inches today (Friday). People will be wondering where all this rain is when we get into July.”

**Ben Whitty, Extension Agronomist, Gainesville, Fla.:** “This has been one of the better years recently for getting the crop started. It’s been cool, but we’ve also had moisture. We might not have made some of those earlier plantings because of the

weather, but there’s still plenty of time left.

“We’re seeing more expansion on the eastern side of the state, just like they are in the adjoining areas of southeastern Georgia. A couple of new buying points are going in – one at Lee and another at Jennings, just south of the Georgia line. Acreage expansion also is continuing in parts of western Florida, just like it is in those neighboring areas of Alabama.”

**Jay Chapin, Extension Specialist - Peanuts, Blackville, S.C.:** “We’ve got maybe half the crop planted, but people are shut down today (Friday). Last weekend we caught showers in a couple of places, and it’s been raining here and there ever since. We’re running a little behind where we typically would be. We’ve got peanuts up, some at 3-4 true leaves. Most of what’s been planted, though, is just cracking. Some people probably needed today’s rain. We’ve had a little trouble getting started in spots.”