

PeanutFax: Southeast

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

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OVERVIEW

The Southeast is mostly on the moist side this week. Some areas will need showers by next week. But there also are places that could use a week or more of open weather. Some of the earliest planted peanuts are now at least 90 days old.

No major pressure is being reported. The main challenge right now is keeping up with fungicide applications and escaped weeds.

CROP REPORTS

Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Agronomist: "Our crop is just in the early pegging stage. We're not close to row closure yet. A lot of fields were planted late, which can be rough in Virginia with the potential for early

frost. But it's been over 90 degrees for the last 10 days, and the heat index has been 105 or more for maybe 9 of those days. That's good weather for the crop as long as we have moisture.

"A little tomato spotted wilt virus is apparent, but nothing alarming. There's a tad of leaf spot but not as bad as last year."

Trey Bullock, Bullock's Ag Consulting, Hattiesburg, Miss.:

"This is the best peanut crop we've had in a while. Peanuts are really clean and loading up good. Over the last 2 weeks we've had a lot of clouds and rain, and rainfall amounts in places have run 12 inches. We have had to go over the peanuts with Lorsban for wireworms. In certain fields they developed high numbers, primarily where cotton and corn had been rotated for years with little or no tillage. Leafhoppers have been bad, too."

Jay Chapin, Extension Specialist-Peanuts, Blackville, S.C.:

"The crop looks too good. We've had timely

rains, so far, in most areas, although there are folks who are hoping to catch a rain now. No matter how good the crop looks at the moment, we still need another month of favorable weather. There is a lot of tomato spotted wilt virus in some fields, but we never know what that means from year to year. With all this rain, we've got to stay on schedule with fungicide applications and stay ahead of leaf spot."

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

"We're still in a weather pattern that's producing scattered thunderstorms. It rains on one guy but not his neighbor. Most everybody has adequate moisture, but there are places that are beginning to dry out now. We have good pin and peg development. In June we got 11 inches of rain, plus ample rain in July.

"Most of our growers will say they're delighted with the crop's progress. Fields are generally clean. With all the rain, we've stretched fungicide programs here and there, but I

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think most people know the value of getting their schedules on track as soon as possible.”

Carl Hobbs, Carl Hobbs Ag Consulting, Ashburn, Ga.: “With all the rain from Hurricane Dennis, our leaf spot treatments got a little behind, but my growers have done an excellent job catching up. Our plantings are averaging 63 days old, and we are going with the systemic fungicides everywhere, either this last spraying or next week. There’s more tomato spotted wilt this year than we’ve seen since 2000, but strip-till peanuts have held up well compared to conventional.

“We’ve had more problems than ever controlling Palmer amaranth, even where we applied preferred materials on time. This has been the biggest challenge to strip-till peanuts that I’ve faced, so far.”

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: “The crop still looks pretty good. In the last 2 weeks we’ve only had isolated rain events, and some areas are starting to dry out a little. If we go another week with this weather pattern I won’t be surprised to see irrigation cranking up.

“I found lesser cornstalk borers in a field yesterday (Thursday) that was relatively wet, so they are out there. I also found fall armyworms yesterday. If you don’t have a consultant or a scout then you need to be out there checking closely, yourself. I think most growers got into their fields in the last 7-10 days and made fungicide applications.

“By and large, we’re still in good shape. There are weed escapes around. Also, we’ve still got yellow plants, but they will catch up once fields dry out and nitrogen starts moving again. It is easier now to find spotted wilt virus. We won’t know, for sure, how severe it will be until we walk fields and make our annual risk assessments in mid August and early

September.”

Rick L. Brandenburg, Extension Entomologist, NCSU: “Hot weather has created a few spider mite problems, and I expect more to follow. Watch fields carefully, especially those treated for corn rootworms. If you’re planning to make an application for rootworms, the deadline for effective timing is rapidly approaching. Research has shown that applications after August 5 are often much less effective.

“Hot weather also has resulted in the symptoms of tomato spotted wilt virus occurring a lot more readily. It’s hard to say if there is more virus in peanuts this year as compared to the past 2 years. The weather has been hotter, which stresses plants more. This often gives us more symptoms. The worm season is rapidly approaching. Treat only when the threshold of 4 per row foot is exceeded.”

Howard Small Jr., Ind. Consultant, Colquitt, Ga.: “We’ve had a few scattered showers this week, but things are drying out. Peanuts aren’t being irrigated, but some pivots have started on cotton. Older peanuts on sandier land look good except where we’re getting tomato spotted wilt. It’s showing up mainly where we planted in April and early May. It’s not anything more than usual, but there’s enough now that we’re noticing it.

“Peanuts still look yellow on our heavier red ground. With all the rain, peanuts are still under water in spots. Plants on heavier ground still haven’t lapped. We’ve started Classic applications on beggarweed where we can. Our crop ranges from the oldest at 97 days to the youngest at 35. The rain this spring kept us from planting some fields until June 16-18.

“Frankly, I’d like to see 2 weeks of dry weather, but we’ve also got heat indexes running 105 to 111. A lot of our land is still wet. All the ponds, creeks, sloughs and low spots are full. I’m a county commissioner, and

we’ve still got water across some roads. As of Monday, the county had received 43.43 inches of rain since January 1, and our yearly average is only 55 inches.

“The crop still has great potential. If we could get 1 to 1.5 inches of rain a week in August a lot of these fields would finish out very nicely.”

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: “The hurricane did not appear to do any damage to peanuts. The worst thing is that people who needed to put on fungicides before the storm were delayed a while afterwards due to wet soil conditions. But, in general, the 180,000 acres of peanuts the USDA says we have look pretty good. Fields I’ve seen are clean. People appear to be keeping up with leaf spot sprays pretty well.

“I’ve dealt with a few difficult problems lately. I was called to look at one case of severe boron deficiency. Stems were split, and it was bad enough that the yield could drop a ton an acre. People sometimes get complacent about boron. On sandier, coarser soils, in particular, we need split applications. But I don’t know that I’ve ever seen a field with a more severe case than the one this week.”

S.C. PEANUT FIELD DAY

South Carolina’s annual Peanut Field Day will be held as part of the Edisto Fall Field Day on Thursday, September 1, at the Edisto REC.

“Plan on arriving by 9:30 a.m., said Jay Chapin, Extension Peanut Specialist. “Field tours start at 10 a.m.”

Lunch will be served, and cotton and soybean plot tours will be available in the afternoon. Growers with early planted peanuts are invited to bring a couple of row feet for pod-blasting to check for maturity.

“Probably the most popular feature every year is the big batch of South Carolina quality boiled peanuts, courtesy of Richard Rentz,” Chapin added.