

PeanutFax: Southeast

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

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OVERVIEW

Much of the crop is in pretty good shape as we head toward the second week of August. Rain has fallen widely in the last week. Fungicides are going out. No large-scale insect outbreaks are being reported.

People are beginning to wonder where all the peanuts will go if this crop – with its increase in acreage over 2004 – continues to show promising yield potential.

CROP REPORTS

Jim Crawford, Extension Agent, Jefferson County, Louisville, Ga.: "We've been getting timely rains. Just about every time we

were ready to cry 'uncle,' we got another shower. Our O2C fields are making tremendous plants this year. I've seen several fields with 2-foot-tall plants. We are finding some white mold, even in some of the new ground. We thought we could get by without any soil fungicides on the new land, but the intense heat and plenty of moisture have been perfect for white mold development."

Bae Lamastus, Lamastus Ag Service, Jay, Fla.: "Peanuts, overall, look wonderful. TSWV has been picking up, and we're seeing some white mold. We've started our white mold treatments. Insects have been fairly light, although moth activity has picked up quite a bit in both peanuts and cotton. We've got light populations of fall and southern armyworms. Based on how things look right now, we'll see digging start around September 10."

John Beasley, Georgia Exten-

sion Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.:

"Peanuts look pretty good. We came out of a hot, dry spell and now have normal to even below normal temperatures in places, and in the last week we've received frequent showers. A lot of people have gotten rain.

There's still concern about white mold. Conditions are favorable. We're also seeing a lot of three-cornered alfalfa hoppers, but it's hard to get a handle on damage. As each week passes we're seeing more symptoms of tomato spotted wilt virus. Overall, though, the crop is in decent shape.

"We're probably 3 weeks from the absolute earliest harvest work, and it's probably more than that because peanuts were so late coming up. It will be Labor Day weekend before we see significant digging."

Rusty Harris, Worth County Extension Agent, Sylvester, Ga.:

"Peanuts look good. A few fields are

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showing TSWV symptoms, but it's not nearly as bad as I thought it would be. We checked a lot of fields 2 weeks ago because growers were concerned about the TSWV they were seeing. But it doesn't seem to be showing up much more than it was then. White mold is picking up in some fields, and fungicides are going out for soil-borne diseases."

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: "Peanuts look good. Growers have been able to stay on top of weeds in most areas. There's some beggarweed around, and I'm seeing a few coffeeweeds and some other late-season weeds poking through. Peanuts have pretty much canopied. I'm not seeing much disease. Some growers are saying this is as good looking a crop of peanuts as they've ever had."

Jay Chapin, Extension Specialist-Peanuts, Blackville, S.C.: "We got some very timely rain out of that front last week, and we've received showers since then. It all came at a critical time, and for the most part we're in good shape. Growers are fighting some very stubborn pigweed that's coming through the canopy, and they're trying to stay on schedule with fungicides. We do have some corn earworms in peanuts and a little bit of leafhopper burn. Sporadic treatments are being made. Mainly, growers are putting something in with

fungicides, where necessary."

David Jordan, North Carolina Extension Peanut Specialist: "Rainfall last week and over this past weekend has improved the peanut crop considerably. However, some areas received less than an inch over the weekend, and some of these same areas received less than an inch during the month of July. All in all, though, the crop looks good right now. Folks are spraying routinely for disease, and this will be the key management issue from now until harvest. Estimated acreage in North Carolina is 92,000 acres."

Rick L. Brandenburg, Extension Entomologist, NCSU: "The most frequent question I've received in the past week has been about rootworm control. Our **Peanut Production Guide** states that applying rootworm insecticides after August 5 may not be effective. However, many growers found themselves in a situation this year where the field was dry until about 2 weeks ago. So, there was no concern over rootworms, and no application was made. Suddenly, conditions seem more favorable, and the question of treatment is much more difficult this time of year.

"There are no absolutes in nature, but I think the benefits of an application will be reduced for any treatments made from this point on. However, if your field is in the higher range

of the rootworm index, it might be wise to treat. Remember that if it turns dry again, a late-season rootworm treatment can flare spider mites. Various caterpillars are showing up in many fields. Keep the 4-worm per row foot threshold in mind when checking fields."

Ames Herbert, Virginia Extension Entomologist (sripmc.org/virginia): "So far, 2005 has been a low-pressure year in terms of insect pests in peanuts, with the exception of large, early-season thrips population. Based on surveys of field corn, corn earworm populations seem to be very small this year. As of July 29, 5 corn fields in each of two peanut counties have been surveyed for earworms. Southampton reported only 24% infested ears compared with 41% in 2004. Only 17% of the ears were infested in Suffolk, compared with 85% in 2004. We have found low levels in several nearby non-peanut counties, as well. This should mean overall low corn earworm pressure in the peanut crop.

"This year, the biggest mistake growers could make regarding worms in peanuts is to treat fields with populations below threshold. Spraying just because a few worms are noticed wastes money and increases the risk of flaring something like spider mites, which are more expensive to control."