

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.

OVERVIEW

Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) has hit hard in a number of areas, and pressure is at least above average in some other parts of the region, several of our contacts noted this week.

A few more samples have been blasted across the lower Southeast, and nobody expects significant harvest activity to crank up before mid September.

DON'T FORGET

Florida: Peanut Field Day, North Florida REC, Marianna, August 24, 8 a.m. to lunch.

Alabama: Wiregrass REC Field Crops Field Day, August 25, Headland, Registration 8 a.m., lunch.

Alabama: USDA Farm Bill Forum with Secretary Mike Johanns, August

25, 12 p.m., Tuskegee Un., Kellogg Conference Ctr.

Georgia: Southeast REC Field Day, Midville, August 25, 9 a.m. (cotton, soy)

CROP REPORTS

Carl Hobbs, Carl Hobbs Ag Consulting, Ashburn, Ga.: "TSWV is as prevalent as I've seen it since 2000. While I can find as many hits now as then, it is not as bad as 1999. These hits seem to be less severe, with usually just a few of the leaves showing symptoms. Perhaps our healthy plants will carry enough good peanuts to make up the difference, and we won't notice anything more than a little drop in grades.

"A few fields in my area have been treated for foliage feeders. In our peanuts we've mainly had to spray for three cornered alfalfa hoppers. Some white mold is showing up in several of my fields, but fungicides are keeping it in check. I've found a hit or two of CBR in a few fields. We are really trying to keep focused on late leaf spot, watching spray inter-

vals and chemistry selection."

Howard Small Jr., Ind. Consultant, Colquitt, Ga.: "There won't be many peanuts dug in our area until after Labor Day. On Monday I blasted a sample from a field planted April 14, which is the earliest I planted, and it looked like another 14-17 days. So, we're looking at about September 1. The next earliest was planted on April 24, so that one probably won't be ready before September 10.

"Tim Moore, our Extension agent in Miller County, did a sample for another guy, and his results were the same. It looks like peanuts are taking about the normal length of time to get ready. Based on when most planting started we won't see a lot of harvest until the middle of next month.

"We're drying out and watering younger peanuts in a few sandy fields. But most of the older peanuts on heavier ground probably can't be watered right now because there are too many boggy spots, and it would be difficult to run a pivot. Overall, this

Continued on next page...



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has been an extremely wet season. Based on the official county gauge that the forestry service maintains in Miller County, we received 50.56 inches of rain in the first 7 months of the year, and our entire annual average is only 56 inches. A couple of other counties have received almost that same amount.

“This crop is delayed already, and the last thing we need once harvest starts are more tropical systems. It looks like an above-average crop, if we can harvest it.

“We’re finding a bunch of little loopers near Bainbridge, and another consultant said he’s finding a few, as well. I started seeing them last week, and today (Thursday) found enough to spray, and we could be spraying loopers on a wider basis next week. We’re seeing some TSWV, but I don’t feel like it’s affecting any more plants now than it was in May.”

Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Agronomist: “Most of our peanuts fared pretty well through the drought stress. We got widespread rain on Tuesday, and a number of areas received over an inch. This will help finish out a lot of the crop. It will be mid September before we see any significant start at harvesting.”

Trey Bullock Bullock’s Ag Consulting, Hattiesburg, Miss.: “Peanuts look pretty good. If anything, it’s maybe been a little too wet for them. We’re finding a little more TSWV than we normally have. I blasted some peanuts yesterday (Wednesday) that were about 115 days old. These are 135-day peanuts, and it looked like we’ll need another 25 days. That puts them about where they’re supposed to be. The field was in the Natchez-Port Gibson area, and it’s been somewhat drier there.”

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

“We’ve had spotty showers over the last 2 days, and some people got 2-5 inches. There still are dry pockets that didn’t get rain this time and also missed it the last time, too. Overall, most people could use one more timely rain to finish off the majority of this crop. A lot of this crop is 90-plus days old now.

“There’s more TSWV than we’ve had in the last couple of years, and it’s becoming more obvious. Some fields have economic levels of TSWV. White mold is showing up, too, and growers are fighting that in some fields. Most of our crop is still 35-40 days away from much digging. We’ve sprayed here and there for corn earworms, but they’ve pretty much cycled out now.”

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: “Peanuts generally look good. We have a few weed problems popping up, like beggarweed, grass and coffeeweed. In general, though, most fields look clean. There are very few fields where disease has gotten away from growers. Most people have stayed on schedule with fungicides.

“One thing we need to be watching for right now are worms. I’ve noticed cattle egrets clustering in several fields recently, and that might indicate worm problems.

“I have seen some early planted fields that have tough levels of TSWV. A lot of these probably are cases where growers tried to push the window. Fields planted a little later with varieties that are somewhat more resistant look good.

“Some digging may start next week in early planted peanuts in central Florida. In this part of the state we’re still 2-3 weeks away from digging.”

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: “We’ve continued to have scattered showers this week. In some cases,

they’ve been heavy. Earlier this week a number of areas picked up an inch or more. We still have spots that have missed recent rains. Those locations aren’t stressed yet but could certainly use a rain.

“The majority of our crop is still about 4 weeks away from significant harvest activity. I’ve got peanuts planted on April 19 that normally would be ready in 10-14 days, but they’re running behind. We’re still seeing a lot of three-cornered alfalfa hopper damage and some leafhoppers. You can find white mold, but growers are keeping it under control if their fungicide applications are timely. We typically get velvet bean caterpillars about this time, but they haven’t been reported, so far.”

William Birdsong, Extension Agronomist-Row Crops, Headland, Ala.: “This is the worst TSWV I’ve ever seen in Alabama. It’s extremely bad in Georgia Greens. The yield potential will be reduced 1,000 to 3,000 lbs/acre in the worst cases I’ve seen. Not everybody has been affected, but there are some extremely bad situations. Planting Georgia Greens too early clearly increased the risk.

“At the station we have 2 tests separated by a narrow field road. The test planted on May 1 is completely eaten up with TSWV. The other one, planted 10 days later, looks great. Everything was identical except the planting dates. Our first half of May this year was more like the last half of April in a normal year. Plants didn’t come up uniformly or quickly, and we’re seeing the effect now.

“I think Alabama has been hit harder than Georgia. I drove 400 to 450 miles through south Georgia last week and didn’t see anything like the TSWV problems that are obvious when you drive through our peanut production areas in Alabama.”