

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

Harvest activity picked up a little more this week in the southern portion of our coverage area, and more digging will get underway next week.

We will start our 2005 Harvest Survey reports next week. Each week we will poll a portion of our readers for updates on harvest progress. If you're on this week's survey list, please take a minute to give us some feedback.

CROP REPORTS

Wes Briggs, Briggs Crop Services, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.: "Harvest has just started. We're digging peanuts in our heavier dirt in Decatur County. A lot more digging will start next week. I'm hearing of yields that are a little off. Peanuts on some sandy

land are struggling to make 2 tons. We had a lot of white mold, and TSWV has been bad. You can get too much of anything, including rain. We've already had at least a full year's average accumulation in many locations. It's dry now, and temperatures are in the 88-90 range. That has helped dry up some of the white mold this week."

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

"A little digging is underway here and there, and isolated fields have been combined. Many of our farmers are anxiously awaiting next week to start, and most of them believe we have had a weather pattern this season that was conducive to making a good crop.

"How it finally goes remains to be seen. We had ample rainfall in some areas and, in fact, maybe a little too much where we have heavy soils. Our growers are certainly excited about what might be under these lighter soils. We have had plenty of TSWV, and in some fields it's end to end. Many of our fields do have at least light to mod-

erate infestations, and quite often the level of TSWV correlates to how the crop came out of the ground and whether or not a uniform stand was quickly established."

Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Agronomist:

"We still have a good crop, but it's dry and we need rain. We haven't had more than a tenth of an inch of rain across much of this crop in the last 2 weeks, and it already was dry before then. We're seeing indications of stress in a lot of fields, and peanuts are trying to mature out. A good, general rain would still help fill out a lot of peanuts. If nothing else, we need moisture so that we can dig.

"I started some preliminary digging Tuesday to assess maturity, and our earliest Virginia-type varieties are still a couple of weeks out. So, we're looking at the end of this month before much harvest starts if we get rainfall."

John Beasley, Georgia Extension

Continued on next page...



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sion Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: “We will start digging our planting date study in Decatur County today (Friday) and will begin digging our plots at Plains by the middle of next week. The state has remained mostly dry, and signs of drought conditions are showing on a wide basis. The western part of the state picked up 3 inches of rain from Katrina. But even that area could start showing stress if it doesn’t rain again soon.

“This combination of low humidity and a fairly constant breeze has been depleting soil moisture. There’s some talk that (Hurricane) Ophelia could bring rain to eastern Georgia. We need rain right now to facilitate digging in soils that have a higher clay content. At Plains we probably will have to irrigate to start digging if it doesn’t rain soon.

“In our harvest clinics we’re already finding cases where peanuts planted later are getting ready sooner than some of the first-planted fields.

In Appling County Thursday one grower brought in 2 samples. One sample was 7-10 days out, while a field planted 10 days earlier was still 14 days from being ready. It can fool you sometimes. Just a slight difference in soil types or weather conditions can delay earlier planted fields and put them behind fields planted later. So, don’t assume that fields will reach maturity in the order they were planted. It doesn’t automatically work that way.

“Loopers are a problem right now in a number of areas, and velvet bean caterpillars are at treatment levels in places. White mold remains a concern, and it’s still spreading in some fields I’ve been in this week.”

Rick L. Brandenburg, Extension Entomologist, NCSU: The current and upcoming weather continues to allow spider mites to remain. There are quite a few out there in a number of fields. The cooler nights

are helping, and I certainly would not encourage any wholesale spraying. But with forecasts in the 90s for mid September, we need to watch for them. They can result in rapid leaf shed at this time of year. Remember that both Danitol and Comite have 14-day preharvest restrictions. Also, remember that at this time of year we are moving toward a caterpillar threshold of 12 per row foot. That is a level we don’t often see.”