

PeanutFax

Where your crop comes first.

Owen Taylor, Editor
owen@agfax.com ■ 601-992-9488

AUGUST 11, 2006

Here is this week's *PeanutFax*, sponsored by **Nichino America**, maker of **Artisan** peanut fungicide. For a subscription to *PeanutFax* or our cotton report, *AgFax*, please go on-line to agfax.com/subs.

OVERVIEW

Beneficial rains have developed in some areas. But showers have been mostly scattered, and dry locations are still out there.

Disease pressure remains relatively light in most parts of our coverage area. But as a couple of our contacts have pointed out lately, insect pressure has been above normal in much of the Southeast.

CROP REPORTS

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: "We've gotten rain in a number of areas since last Friday evening. It moved across a good swath of our peanut belt but it was still scattered enough that some areas received little or no rain. We still haven't had what I would consider a widespread rain, but we're at least getting more frequent scattered showers, with some being rather intense. We continue to receive calls about lesser cornstalk borers. So many

are out there that these recent rains aren't going to completely stop them, just slow down their life cycle. There's some resurgence of cutworms, and fall armyworms and corn earworms are increasing in some fields. We had a call today about redneck peanut worms.

"The early onset of this drought is pretty evident. In the southeast part of the belt, some dryland fields look bad, with virtually nothing on the plants. Other fields that received occasional showers are behind in development but have some pretty good pods. I was at Plains today (Thursday), and the station there has received enough rain that they haven't had to irrigate in 3 weeks. We have some irrigated peanuts in our plots at Plains that we evaluated today, and they were at 114 days. Based on the chart, they still need 24 more days, so they're tracking about like they should. Keep in mind, though, that those were irrigated and also have received rain. When you look at all the variability across this year's crop, I don't think we will be able to make any kind of general statement about the number of days it will take for peanuts to mature. In some cases, the heat will accelerate maturity. And where fruiting has been delayed, it could take 160 days or more to finish them out."

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

"Our situation hasn't changed much in the last week. In terms of rain, we've still got the 'haves' and the 'have nots.' In the last 4 days it's rained somewhere every day, but it hasn't been nearly enough to go around. Where folks received rain, peanuts are moving well. In places that missed showers over the last 2 weeks, the crop is going backwards. We've got everything from fields with 2-ton/acre potential down to some with no crop set and not much of a bush.

(Continued)



It's been a dry year in many peanut growing areas, but recent rains are changing that picture. With hot weather and added moisture, limb rot and white mold will thrive.

NOW is the time to protect your peanut crop from soil-borne disease with Artisan Peanut Fungicide.

Only Artisan has Intelli-Tech™ Technology for superior foliar and soil-borne disease control in wet or dry weather.

www.nichino.net

Between those extremes, we've got just about every situation you can imagine. Some fields with calcium deficiency on the tap root have gotten rain now and still have a chance to fill out pods, provided the rain continues. The biggest management decision right now is determining what to do about fungicides in areas that remain dry."

Mark Mitchell, Mitchell Ag Consulting, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.: "We're wet for a change. It rained some last Friday, then a big one came through Tuesday afternoon. Amounts ranged from a half-inch up to 5 inches in places. In the last 2 days (Wednesday and Thursday) I haven't been on a farm with a pivot running. That's the first time I could say that since the big rains at planting. Our oldest peanuts are at 115 days, and I don't think I'll see anything come up before September 1. The way things look, we'll need 135-140 days. We've had a few fields with redneck peanut worms and have sprayed isolated places for cutworms. We're still finding a few lessers, even in fields treated earlier. Spider mites are present, and we've spot-sprayed some fields and treated maybe 200 acres in whole fields. Our oldest peanuts are on their sixth fungicide application. We're seeing a little early and a little late leafspot and a bit of white mold. Tomato spotted wilt virus is present, but not as heavy as I expected. I haven't rated any fields heavier than medium."

Mitt Wardlaw, Consultant, Starkville, Miss.: "We're picking up more wireworm damage. This is in the douthiest parts of fields, and damage isn't bad yet. A couple of the farms I'm checking in Webster County got a little over 2 inches of rain in the last few days, and that's really helping. In Monroe County, we've gotten maybe an inch of rain all season. Up until they went into the reproductive stage, those peanuts looked okay. But they're loading up now, and the moisture requirement has accelerated. In the middle of the day, plants are crashing hard. Generally, those fields still have a fairly good taproot crop, and they're still trying to bloom and peg. We'll probably start blasting about the first week of September."

David L. Wright, Florida Extension Agronomist, Quincy, Fla.: "We've had scattered showers in the last 10-14 days, and it's surprising how well some of the peanuts responded. We still have fields that haven't lapped due to the drought. But I was in fields yesterday (Thursday) that could make a very good crop. But, I also saw cases where fields aren't doing well. A lot of this has to do with how much rain fields received and when. Overall, the crop is a little later

than normal. But if rains continue another 45 days, peanuts could make a pretty good crop. Most people are getting back on fungicide programs."

Mary Wilks, Carolina Precision Consulting, Enfield, N.C.: "The weather has been extremely dry, and some growers postponed the latest leafspot fungicide treatment due to unfavorable conditions. We did receive a good rain Thursday evening, and growers will likely apply those fungicides now. Many fields have been treated for sclerotinia."

Dallas Hartzog, Alabama Extension Agronomist, Headland, Ala.: "We've been under some of those red cells on the weather radar, and they've rained a good deal in very small areas. It's still a case of one grower receiving a generous amount while his neighbor just down the road gets nothing. Some of our peanut belt is atrociously dry. We have calls every day from people wanting to know if their peanuts can make a crop. Every field is different, and there's no quick, blanket recommendation that applies to every case out there this year. It's still possible to make a crop of some size in many of the fields in question, but that becomes increasingly more difficult every day that those plants go without rain. A tremendous infestation of lesser cornstalk borers is still out there in numerous locations. Yesterday (Thursday) we received our first report of spider mites on peanuts, and I expect they will become more of a problem where it's so dry."

Mike Howell, Extension Area Agronomist, Collins, Miss.: "We're doing pretty good in the south part of the state in terms of moisture. Every field I was in today (Friday) in the Lucedale area was good and wet. The rain, though, begins tapering off at Magee, and some of our peanuts north of Interstate 20 are still locked in a dry weather pattern. A lot of them are 90 days old and still not lapping the middles. Whether there's time to make a crop if it starts raining is one of the big questions right now. A couple of guys are spraying for worms. We're picking them up around field edges, in particular. A little leafspot is showing up where we've gotten rain."

PeanutFax is published by Looking South Communications, Owen Taylor, Editor. It is distributed free by email and fax to residents of the United States engaged in peanut farming or related professions. Mailing address: 142 Westlake Drive, Brandon, MS 39047. 601-992-9488 (Fax: 601-992-3503). Email: owen@agfax.com. To request a subscription, go to agfax.com/subs. ©2006 Looking South Communications.