

PeanutFax

JULY 14, 2007

Here is this week's PeanutFax.

Our thanks to field staff of **Nichino America**, maker of **Artisan** peanut fungicide, for once again sponsoring our reports.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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LESSERS, OTHER INSECTS, RAIN

More areas are receiving rain, although mostly in the form of scattered summer showers.

Soil-borne disease treatments are starting on a wider basis this week.

Lesser cornstalk borers continue to plague parts of Georgia, and some retreatments have been made.

Scattered treatments are being made in the lower Southeast for various hoppers and foliage feeders.

The Texas crop continues to get rain, and planting in south Texas may finally be winding down after wet weather delayed earlier planting intentions.

CROP REPORTS

Jay Chapin, Extension Specialist-Peanuts, Blackville, S.C.: "Rain has been spotty. At the end of the week, some farmers told me they've gotten 7 to 8 tenths here and there. The showers are helping where they do fall, but we still need a good, general rain across our crop. Where it didn't rain this last week, the soil is mighty dry. Depending on their programs, growers are on their second or third fungicide application,

and this one includes a white mold material plus something for leaf spot or a material for both soil-borne diseases and leaf spot. A lot of peanuts are at 60 days after planting, so it's critical to get on schedule and maintain those 14- to 15-day intervals for leaf spot control because canopies are growing fast. Lesser cornstalk borers have been active in some fields that have been so dry, but they're not at a critical point yet."

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: "Things are fairly quiet. We've been getting scattered showers but, unfortunately, nothing widespread or general. Lesser cornstalk borers are the main concern. These are cases where there still hasn't been enough rain. Growers are trying to determine when to start heavy irrigation. With the cost of water, nobody wants to start too early and/or put on too much water too soon. Scheduling is complicated by lateness in planting this year, plus these scattered showers. We're still battling pigweed. It's been the toughest one due to escapes and possible herbicide resistance."

Mitt Wardlaw, Consultant, Starkville, Miss.: "Planting was probably 10 days later here than it was last year, but peanuts are probably 25 days ahead of where they were in mid July last year. It's unbelievable what a little rain will do. We started dry, but in the last 10 to 21 days, north Mississippi has gotten its share of rain. Peanuts are about to close the middles on a good share of our acreage. And peanut acreage in this part of the state increased by probably 40%.

"We started out kind of slow with fungicides to see what

(Continued)

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the weather might bring us. All of the peanuts I'm working this year are on new ground, and that bought us a little time in terms of starting our disease program. When the rains started, we got aggressive with our fungicide program and actually began with our soil-disease fungicides. Last year, we were finding a little white mold early, and nobody could quite figure out why. After about 10 days of watching it last year, we decided to spray, and this year with all the rain, we didn't want to play with it. We're finding some cutworms, and the first real defoliation to amount to anything started last week. It's occurring mainly in grassy spots. We're not adding anything for them yet, but if the defoliation continues, we'll include an insecticide next week."

Mark Mitchell, Mitchell Ag Consulting, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.: "We're in the heat of the battle with lesser cornstalk borers, and several fields had to be retreated. These were fields that were treated 21 to 40 days ago, and lessers steadily built back. We were finding them in up to 80% of the locations checked in about 80% of the fields we treated earlier. I've had reinfestations in the past, but never anything comparable to what we've seen in 2007. This is really the heaviest lesser pressure I've ever found, even heavier than in cases where we intentionally did not treat fields. We're at a loss to say what's going on, whether it's a product failure or something else. I compared notes with another consultant who said that lessers are rebuilding on the outer limbs that fell outside of the band. Ours were building more on the limbs but are also reinfesting inside the application zone.

"We've had to spray some foliage feeders in peanuts in the last 7 to 10 days. Beet armyworms made up more than half of what we found, with the rest a mix of fall armyworms and tobacco budworm and/or corn earworm. We're picking up a few mites, but nothing to concern me yet. They're not unexpected, considering how many are in corn and some of the cotton. We've seen very little white mold but have been finding more rhizoctonia limb rot. With the temperatures we've been having, I would have expected the opposite situation, but I think the limb rot is related to pressure from the lessers. There's a little leaf spot, nothing heavy.

"Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) is showing up in some peanuts, and the older they are, the more of it we're finding. One client grows for the boiling market, and he planted Gregory about every 2 weeks, starting on March 30. In some that are 104 days old today (Thursday), there's about a 90% infestation. You can look across all the plantings and pretty much see the pressure declining as planting dates get later. That's not to say we won't see it increase in the later plantings, but you can find a tremendous difference relating to planting dates. TSWV was rapidly increasing on some Georgia Greens planted on April 17. Even as hot and dry as it's been, peanuts still appear to be setting a fairly good crop."

Todd A. Baughman, Texas Extension Peanut Specialist, Vernon, Texas: "Parts of our production area continue to receive rain. We got an inch of rain at my home this morning (Friday), and it's heavily overcast right now. In general, the crop is holding up real well. We've had some 100-degree highs this week. It's been cool up until now, and this was the first heat wave we've had. But it cooled off again today, so

maybe the heat won't have a big impact on the crop. Growers are still trying to finish some planting in south Texas after all the rain delays, and I understand they were rolling pretty hard this week. Some guys got behind on weed control because of rain. But it's wet and humid, and the reports indicate that herbicides have been pretty active this year."

Mike Howell, Extension Area Agronomist, Gulfport, Miss.: "We had a big rain here today (Friday), pretty much across the coast. Growers have mainly been applying fungicides, and we're getting questions about what to use. We're at the stage that soil-borne materials should be going out, but some of the new growers have been thinking that maybe they could skip that on new ground. We're trying to get them to include those materials. Some white mold is already evident, mostly in the Eupora area in north Mississippi. It developed last year in some fields that had been in cotton for years."

Edward Kane, Ind. Crop Consultant, Robertsdale, Ala.: "We're wrapping up a lot of weed control on the oldest fields. At the end of last week, we started our white mold materials and are still doing that. We're not seeing any major disease pressure right now. The main thing at this point is to get our fungicide program established. Some schedules were delayed because we had to focus on weed control, but I think we're just about on track now. We treated a lot of three-cornered alfalfa hoppers and leaf hoppers last week in our oldest peanuts, which are at 50 to 60 days. We're in good shape for moisture now. The last big amounts were around the Fourth of July, and we've received scattered, half-inch showers since then."

Joel Faircloth, Virginia Extension Agronomist: "We're getting a lot of calls about late-season weed escapes, particularly pigweed. A lot of folks are applying Pursuit, Cadre, Cobra and Blazer, depending on their rotation plans. Most areas in Virginia got some rain Tuesday night and Wednesday night, as well. Amounts ranged from a half-inch up to 3 inches. Peanuts needed the rain. Mid July is usually when we start seeing branches touching in the middles, but they're not shaking hands across the rows yet."

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