

PeanutFax

JULY 21, 2007

Here is this week's PeanutFax.

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

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Owen Taylor, Editor 888-327-6329 (owen@agfax.com)

RAINFALL CONTINUES TO BE MIXED

Much of the Southeast needed rain as we wrapped up our calls Friday afternoon. A series of promising thunderstorms was building across a wide part of the region Friday evening.

Texas is slipping into a drier, more normal weather pattern. In the Midsouth, rainfall amounts in the last week have ranged from ample to excessive.

More soil-borne disease fungicide applications are being made. Some foliage feeders have been sprayed in south Georgia, where lesser cornstalk borers continue to be heavy in drier fields.

CROP REPORTS

Bae Lamastus, Lamastus Ag Service, Jay, Fla.: "Peanuts are pegging pretty good and have some nuts on them now. We're working on our second and third fungicide applications. Insects are very light. We're just starting to see some three-cornered alfalfa hoppers in the 60- and 70-day-old peanuts. I haven't picked up any white mold yet, although it's getting about time for it. Tomato spotted wilt virus is very light. We're not picking up any leaf spot."

Mike Howell, Extension Area Agronomist, Gulfport, Miss.: "Peanuts in south Mississippi are lapping and pegging well. This is as strong a potential crop as I've seen in a long time. The concern right now is all the rain and what disease will do. Leaf spot isn't bad, but you can find it just about everywhere. A little white mold is showing up. A lot of growers are 7 to 10 days behind on fungicides, and a couple of guys have not put out a shot all year. It was raining when they needed to start, and rain has held them back ever since then. Over the last 3 weeks, we've had times when it's rained 2 to 3 inches a day for several days in a row, and one grower got 10 inches in 5 days.

"In north Mississippi, all the reports are positive. Rain slacked off after 7 to 10 days. Peanuts have really jumped. Probably 75% of the crop up there has lapped. Mitt Wardlaw, who consults in peanuts in northeast Mississippi, said they already have more pods than they did all of last year, which isn't surprising, considering how dry it was there in 2006. Our northeastern counties may have their best crop ever."

Todd A. Baughman, Texas Extension Peanut Specialist, Vernon, Texas: "We haven't received rain this week, and fields are drying out some. Peanuts look really, really good. We're still making cleanup herbicide applications in places. There are some reports of sclerotinia, and some of the normal pod rot applications are going out. Most of our peanuts are in the pod development stage now. I've been in west Texas today (Thursday), and the pivots were running. But, peanuts aren't (Continued)

What peanut fungicide...

- ▶ Gives you up to 45 days of control of soil-borne diseases such as *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Sclerotium rolfsii*?
- ▶ Can wait on a rain or an irrigation event for 14 days after application without any loss of soil disease control?
- ▶ Is rainfast within minutes of application?
- ▶ Gives you the most from every dollar spent on an application?

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suffering by any stretch. We're at the point in both development and our typical rainfall patterns that irrigation will be critical from here on out unless it does start raining again."

Trey Bullock, Bullock's Ag Consulting, Hattiesburg,

Miss.: "It keeps raining across a wide portion of our crop. Areas north of Port Gibson have gotten 8.5 inches of rain since Sunday, and in the last 14 days there are places with totals of 14 to 15 inches. The crop is absolutely beautiful. I'm on the western side of the state today (Thursday), and around Natchez there are some of the biggest peanut plants I've ever seen. We're trying to catch up on fungicide sprays. A lot of treatments are a week late, and rain has kept ground rigs out of the fields. Typically, our peanuts are just about touching now, but some of our 60-day peanuts lapped 2 weeks earlier than normal. The crop is big and lush, and with all this humidity, we definitely have disease weather. We'll probably shorten intervals between fungicide applications. Some rhizoctonia is apparent, and we're even finding some white mold in places that have never had peanuts."

Kris Balkcom, Research Assistant, Wiregrass Research and Extension Center, Headland, Ala.: "Over the last weekend, there was a pretty good scattered rain across a lot of our peanut belt, then we had showers on Monday across the southeast corner of the state, from 2 tenths up to an inch. There was a report that a very isolated spot got up to 4 inches. Peanuts are really responding to the water and are growing rapidly. The big push now is to make fungicide applications where we've delayed some treatments on later-planted peanuts because it's been so dry. Where we have peanuts touching – those planted in early May – soil-borne applications have been going out. We've had some lesser cornstalk borer damage but have kind of let it go. It's rained enough now that they shouldn't be a problem unless it turns extremely dry again."

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist, Tifton, Ga.: "Some areas got pretty good rainfall amounts over the last weekend, but it didn't rain everywhere or necessarily enough. I went to the 2007 Southern Peanut Growers Conference in Panama City this week and took different routes there and back, and there was obvious stress in a lot of dryland fields. Every pivot I saw was running. A lot of the crop is either in or approaching peak water demand. The earliest peanuts desperately need water. Folks are still battling lesser cornstalk borers in Georgia's southwest corner where it's been drier. Most of my calls lately have been about stand problems on the very late-planted peanuts. In some cases, we're talking about field abandonment. Weed control is still a critical issue due to escapes. Older peanuts are on their third to fourth fungicide applications, and the later ones are on the second."

Wes Briggs, Briggs Crop Services, Inc., Bainbridge, Ga.: "We're still fighting lesser cornstalk borers and have started some treatments for foliage feeders, mainly corn earworms,

fall and beet armyworms and cutworms. A few loopers are around. A lot of peanuts started receiving their first worm treatments this week. Some of our peanuts are on their third and fourth fungicide applications. We're seeing a little leaf spot but not much white mold. Rhizoctonia is turning up, and it mainly seems associated with lesser damage. Tomato spotted wilt virus is increasing a little each week, and it's steadily increasing on earlier planted peanuts. The main challenge right now is keeping up with the water."

Jim Crawford, Extension Agent, Jefferson County, Louisville, Ga.: "Our oldest peanuts are a little past 60 days. They're pegging now. Soil-borne fungicides are going out. We've had to make some Cobra applications on peanuts to catch weeds that the preemergence materials missed due to dry conditions earlier. Our rainfall lately has ranged somewhere between sporadic and adequate. About 50% of our area is dry, but I wouldn't categorize it as extremely dry."

Jay Chapin, Extension Specialist-Peanuts, Blackville, S.C.: "Rainfall has been real spotty. We've gotten a little here at the station, but most areas of the state need rain badly. We're past 60 days on a lot of peanuts and are getting there real fast on the rest of them. The next 6 weeks will determine what we have in terms of a crop. The weed war is mostly winding down, just cleanup operations now. People are focusing on getting out their first soil-borne fungicide application and, in some cases, their second. We have lesser cornstalk borers, but I don't think anything is being done about them. I'm cautioning growers to check for hopper burn. This is the time when it can show up, and it can surprise growers. It's rarely a widespread problem, but it has the potential to sneak up on you and cause some yield loss."

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