



The University of Georgia

®

CRISP CO. AG NEWSLETTER – August 09

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Emailing this newsletter

This is my first attempt to email a newsletter. I've tried to downsize images so they won't take forever to download. I also hope I have your correct email address. Please call me (229-947-0298) if you have trouble downloading anything. Also any response back to me will let me know you DID receive this. I receive disease and insect update almost weekly from our specialists. This "email approach" will allow me to forward you this information as soon as I receive it.

Around the County

Rain has its positives and negatives. Conditions have been favorable for disease and kept some heavy equipment out of fields however we need rain to grow a crop of anything. A common question now relates to Asian soybean rust. So far we have not found Soybean Rust in Crisp County. Bob Kemeriat our UGA plant pathologist monitors the spread of this disease across GA and so far it has been found in extreme SW GA and trace amounts found in Chula on August 11th. Growers should continue to monitor soybeans for the disease. A fungicide should be considered if pods have reached full bloom to early pod development. Insect sprays and white mold are also hot topics now. More comments about soybean rust; other disease and insects are in this newsletter. **(Examples of peanut spray schedules were in last month's newsletter)*

Watermelon Research Data

We had eight different projects we were working on this year in watermelons here in Crisp County. Some were repeats of last year to back up - or contradict last year's data. We recently wrapped up harvest and are still crunching numbers. Data on the fungicide work is almost complete. This particular trial was collaborated with Dr. David Langston – Extension Plant Pathologist in Tifton. Gummy Stem Blight (GSB) was pretty bad this year and our plots were no exception. Below is information from these plots. Note - We double the recommended rate of Regalia. I'll be more than happy to discuss this info or other projects we completed this year.

<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate/A</u>	<u>Cost/A</u>	<u>%GSB Infection</u>			
			<u>7/6</u>	<u>7/13</u>	<u>7/20</u>	<u>7/27</u>
Bravo Weather Stik	2 pints	\$11.6	0%	15%	18%	73%
Regalia	2 quarts	\$30	0%	30%	70%	100%
Folicur	8 fl oz	\$4.80	0%	10%	15%	58%
Inspire + Vanguard	7fl oz + 7 oz	\$31.22	0%	16%	15%	65%
Quadris	12.4 fl oz	\$35.71	0%	32%	80%	100%
Endura	6.5 fl oz	\$26	0%	28%	58%	90%
Topsin M + Dithane	10 fl oz + 3 lbs	\$13.71	0%	18%	30%	65%
Switch	14 oz	\$56	0%	10%	13%	58%
Check	- -	- -	0%	26%	70%	95%

Maturity Progression – What to Expect (comments from John Beasley in the August 2009 issue of *Peanut Pointers*)

For many years as we prepared the August issue of *Peanut Pointers* we knew that harvest for much of the crop was “just around the corner”. However, this year is very different. For a very large percentage of the crop, early August in 2009 is much like early July in the old days. We planted over 40% of the crop in June or later. We still need very timely and frequent rain events well into September to mature the crop and move the late planted crop along. Peanut fields planted on June 15th need until October 28th to reach 135 days, which is what is normally needed to reach optimal maturity on cultivars like Georgia Green, Georgia-06G, and Tifguard.

Fields that were planted in early to mid May should be progressing normally in maturation rate due to the fairly normal temperatures we’ve experienced. Even though we have had some above normal temps in June and early August, most of the summer has been normal in temperature maximum.

Don’t forget to run an initial maturity profile about 110-120 days after planting. This should give you a guide as to if the field being examined is maturing at a normal rate. Our first planting date in our Planting Date research trial at the Attapulgus Research and Education Center was April 10. It was checked on August 5 (117 DAP) for maturity progress and was still showing 24-28 days from maturity, which would make these about 141-145 day peanuts. This is not unexpected for early April planted peanuts. The same cultivars might only take about 125-130 days to reach optimal maturity if planted in late May, especially with the heat units we accrued in June. Bottom line is we have to watch maturity progression very carefully this year.

How Long does it Take a Peg to Reach Harvestable Pod? (Beasley)

One question I get quite often is at what point (days after planting) is it too late for a peg that is just entering the soil to make a pod that will be harvested and grade out as a sound mature kernel? It depends on the cultivar but for the most part, and for mid maturing cultivars like Georgia Green and Georgia-06G, any peg that enters the soil after 90 days after planting will not have time to reach harvestable pod age/size.

Think of it this way. When you look at the Hull-Scrape Maturity Profile Chart you will notice it has 25 columns, with 2 columns representing one week, or a total of 12.5 weeks (87 days) from when a peg enters the soil until it reaches optimal maturity. If you look from left to right on the maturity profile chart, it takes about 12-14 columns (6-7 weeks, or about 45-50 days) from when a peg enters the soil until it reaches a stage of a “sound mature kernel” pod that will be harvested. If you have a field of a mid maturing cultivar that is at 90 days after planting, then pegs just beginning to swell would need a minimum of 45 days to get to 135 days after planting, which is just about time for harvest. For mid-late cultivars like Florida-07 and Georgia-07W, or late maturing cultivars like Georgia-02C, you can extend the time to about 100 days.

Bottom line is that after about 90 days after planting, any pegs that enter the soil will probably not make it to harvest.

Peanut Insect Problems (Adams)

Threecornered alfalfa hoppers are causing the usual concern with regards to control decisions. Since the thresholds have been kicked to the side, we have had to rely on judging whether the population is a threat to yields or just our mental health. However, it is apparent that varietal differences in feeding preferences do occur, and in many cases, a seemingly high population does not always result in observable excessive feeding damage. Another factor that I have observed over the years is: Weak vines, especially non-irrigated, seem to have more severe problems than healthier vines with similar TCAH population levels. This, of course, is why it is difficult to make the call to action. The obvious is easy, i.e., lots of bugs and damage, let’s spray. If piggy-back applications can be made with low rates of effective insecticides on high populations on peanuts less than 120 days old, even without damage, and the growers mental health is an issue, then I see no harm culturally in attacking the problem. By high population we might say several TCAH adults and nymphs at each location checked, or “HOLY COW AT THE TCAH” as you walk across the field. If you feel the need, please call and we can discuss specific field situations.

Hopper Burn caused by the potato leafhopper is developing at significantly higher levels than over the past few years. This is another ‘judgment call’ Hopper burn usually appears first in lush growing vines on the lower more moist margins of fields. Often, the damage may remain confined to these areas and very seldom do we have to treat for this pest. Watch for the progressive spread of damage across significant portions of the field,

the presence of adults and high numbers of immature (wingless) hoppers. Please call if you would like more information.

Foliage Feeders : **The following is a repeat of last week's alert with a some additional info.** Over the past two several weeks I have received numerous calls from across the peanut belt on developing insect problems. Most of the problems have involved various mixtures of beet armyworm, fall armyworm, southern armyworm, corn earworm, tobacco budworm, cutworm and velvetbean caterpillar. The most significant damage has been in late (mid-June) planted fields where fall armyworms (1-2/plant) resulted in complete defoliation. The use of pyrethroid insecticides for control of the tobacco budworm has produced the same results as in 2008, poor control. The pyrethroids are good to excellent when used to control corn earworm, and fair to good on small velvetbean cat and fall armyworm. They have also been fair to excellent when applied to threecornered alfalfa hoppers and potato leafhoppers. Tracer has been excellent on the armyworm complex and is generally thought to give fair to good control of budworm in peanuts. Tracer has given variable control of velvetbean cat. Tracer has been in very short supply since 2008, but Consero (spinosad + cyhalothrin) should give good control of the same worms, and the pyrethroid combination should give added control of the hopper complex. Lannate and Steward give good to excellent control of armyworms, budworm, corn earworm. Lannate is less expensive than Steward, but has short residual efficacy. Steward is excellent on cutworm; Tracer is fair to good on cutworm, in other words, variable. Lannate and the pyrethroids are fair on cutworm, but they do have some activity if coverage is adequate. Dimilin has been used successfully in preventive treatments for velvetbean cat., and gives good control of armyworms. Intrepid gives good control of armyworms.

Peanut White Mold – Bob Kemeriat

We have nearly perfect conditions now for white mold to blow up on us – high humidity, rain, full canopy, etc. Now the question is, what to do? Here are some suggestions where white mold is a real problem in the field:

1. Spraying fungicides for white mold control at night may help.
2. Increasing your spray volume to help move product down the plant may help.
3. Timing application before a rain or an irrigation event (preferably allowing about 8 hours of drying time...) may help.
4. If using Provost, increasing rate from 8.0 to 10.7 fl oz/A may help.
5. If using Artisan or Convoy, increasing the 2-app program rate to 32 and 26 ounces, respectively may help. In a 4-block program, consider using 16 ounces of Artisan + 1 pt/A chlorothalonil or 13 oz Convoy + 1.5 pt/A chlorothalonil.
6. If a grower is experiencing problems controlling white mold and is using something other than Artisan, Convoy, or Provost, they might consider trying one of these products at the high rate.
7. For growers using the 2-shot approach with 2 applications of Abound, Evito, Convoy or Artisan, where white mold is SEVERE, the grower may consider alternating the 2-shot rate of these products at 60 and 90 days after planting with 7.2 fl oz of tebuconazole + 3/4 pt-1.0 pt/A chlorothalonil at 74 and 104 dap. Note, this is only for severe cases of white mold and where grower wants to do something "extra".

INSECT UPDATES: Check the **Cotton Insect Hotline (1-800-851-2847)** for updates on current insect conditions. The Cotton Pest Management Newsletter and additional cotton production information is also posted on the UGA Cotton Homepage at: <http://www.ugacotton.com>

Asiatic Soybean Rust – Bob Kemeriat

Conditions are quite favorable for the development and spread of Asian soybean rust. The recent tropical storm, even though we were not directly in its path, may have helped to move more spores into our production region and has certainly extended environmental conditions (cooler, wetter, some wind) that are perfect for development of rust. Because Asian soybean rust has not been aggressive at all this year, I am hesitant to call for automatic fungicide applications outside of SW Georgia. However, growers across the southern Coastal Plain should continue to monitor rust carefully and consider fungicides as the situation becomes critical.

Asian Soybean Rust (when caught early) is usually found on leaves in the lower canopy of plants.



Other Information

• SEN. CHAMBLISS' OFFICE AND USDA TO HOST CROP INSURANCE LISTENING SESSIONS

The office of U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) and U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency Administrator Bill Murphy will host a listening session for area agriculture producers on Thursday, August 27, 2009, at 8:00 a.m., at the County Government Center, located at 225 Pine Avenue in Albany. Sen. Chambliss, Ranking Republican Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, is hosting the discussion to offer area producers the opportunity to provide comments and ask questions about the federal crop insurance program.

Area producers and members of the media are invited to attend the listening session.

WHO: U.S. Sen. Chambliss Office and RMA Administrator Bill Murphy

WHAT: Crop Insurance Listening Session WHEN: Thursday, August 27, 2009, 8:00 a.m.

WHERE: County Government Center, 225 Pine Avenue,
Albany

• Peanut Maturity Clinics

Crisp County Young Farmer Advisor David West and I are conducting a Peanut Maturity Clinic at the High School on Monday, September 21st at 7 PM. We'll have another clinic at a later date.

If you wish to have your peanuts checked earlier (or later) I'll be glad to do so.

Sincerely,
Tucker Price
Crisp County Ag Agent

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