



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

**AG BRIEFS**  
**Mid-Month Update on Soybeans, Peanuts & Cotton**

**September 28, 2009**

As I have gotten a lot of things behind me and get back into the routine of monthly newsletters, I wanted to send a brief update on what I have been seeing in peanuts, soybeans and cotton the last couple of weeks. But before I get into this, I want to remind everyone to take precautions and be safe as we move into the harvest phase of our two major crops. Lots of equipment will be moving along the highways and folks are always in hurry so always keep your surroundings in mind.



**Soybeans**

I sent two samples off last week to be examined for Soybean Asian Rust and none was detected. At this point, I believe most of our crop is at or approaching the R6 stage and should be safe from this potential threat. I would still be scouting for insects at this time. Stink bugs are still prevalent in some areas and looper numbers are high in places. Again, treatment decisions should include crop stage and insect numbers. I have seen more potash problems this season in soybeans than in previous years. Most have been confirmed through tissue analysis. This doesn't mean the soil is necessarily low in potash but for some reason it didn't make it to the top ¼ of the plant-dry, hot period. Generally, these are small spots and not large areas. The large yellow areas in a field have typically been manganese. All in all, the crop looks good. I do have some curiosity in regards to yields among the different varieties.

**Peanuts**

Pod blasting has been going on for the last two weeks now here at the office. I am trying to hold every morning open to check the maturity of peanuts and have the afternoons for field visits. Samples thus far are indicating that we will come close to the maturity date of each cultivar. This is by no means "in stone".



Fields should begin to be monitored for maturity at 110 days. Those that I have checked twice on the board have progressed each time and we'll have some on top of the dirt next week. Georgia Green, Georgia-06G At 3085, Tifguard, AP-4 and Georgia Greener under *normal* conditions reach maturity in 135-140 days. The variety AT 215 are 10-14 days earlier than a Georgia Green. AP-3, Mcloud, Florida-07 and Georgia-07W are 7 days later than a Georgia Green. Georgia-02C and York varieties are 2-3 weeks later than a Georgia Green. What acres we were able to get planted (Georgia Green, Georgia-06 and Tifguard) in May are the ones approaching maturity.

You guys have done a good job with your disease programs this year. Most have taken preventative and not corrective measures on white mold and I think your rewards will follow. Yes, it costs a little more to use the stronger white mold materials but over the years I have seen the other side. There will always be some level of white mold in all fields but your program helps to define how much. The dead plants we are seeing today are from hits occurring a week or two ago. I haven't seen a lot of what I would call "active" white mold and the cooler weather next week should help with this disease. Spray programs should be on the tail-end of the program but fields should still be scouted aggressively for insects and disease. Finally, losses from white mold in a field have to be greater than 20-25% before one should consider digging the crop ahead of optimum maturity. I have seen a field or two this season that have had heavy white mold pressure but when you take random counts they are not at the 20-25%.



## Cotton

As with last year, *Stemphylium* leaf spot has been a major issue this year. There are other leaf spot diseases out there but *stemphylium* is the one most heavily infesting fields. It's basically causing plants to cut-out prematurely. A potassium deficiency is what makes the leaves susceptible to infection by *Stemphylium*. It's not that the soil is necessarily deficient of K but rather the plant can not pull it up for some reason. There were a couple of plots in the county this year where a fungicide was used around the third or fourth week of bloom to help suppress this. Based on observations this week from myself, the producer and Dr. Kemerait, there is not much visible difference between what was treated and not treated. Plots will be re-evaluated next week. Furthermore, it's not just a DP&L 555 problem. It is in other varieties, too. It's hard to say what the best approach to this problem will be next season or if it will even be an issue next season.

***\*\*The mention of trade names throughout this newsletter is not an endorsement for one product over another. \*\****



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