

July 9, 2-011

Peanut Acreage Down

Dr. Nathan B. Smith, UGA Extension Ag Economist, gives us the following Peanut Acreage information.

Peanut Acreage Report Shows Bigger Drop Than Planting Intentions Report

The *Acreage* report released on June 30th by USDA NASS showed a bigger decrease in Georgia and US planted acres for peanuts. Georgia peanut acreage is pegged at 480,000 acres, a 15% drop from 2010. The US peanut acreage is shown as 1.152 million acres, a 10.5% decrease from last year. NASS's March *Prospective Plantings* report showed only a 4% drop in peanut acreage for 2011 which was widely considered too conservative at the time. Georgia's planted acreage is the lowest since 1982. Planted acreage has only fallen below 500,000 twice in the last 30 years with 494,000 acres planted in 2000 and 475,000 acres planted in 1982. Previous to 1982, Georgia peanut acreage not dropped below 500,000 since 1967 when 493,000 acres were planted.

While it is generally accepted that peanut acreage is significantly down in 2011, it would not surprise me if the final acreage number is adjusted up or down slightly due to the difficulties of planting this year. The survey was conducted during the last days of May and the first week of June. Cotton and soybeans are more likely to be affected because planting progress was shown to be near normal for peanuts. The peanut final planting date was moved to June 5 for most counties but the late planting date was not changed remaining at June 15. With cotton prices remaining above \$1.15 during the month of June, it is likely cotton was planted on dryland acres chasing rains rather than peanuts.

The significance of the acreage report on prices is that it gives buyers a revised production expectation for 2011. If the US ends up with an average yield for the 2011 crop, then a 1.85 to 1.88 million ton crop would be the resulting production. The ending stocks level for the 2010 crop has fallen as was projected during the winter meetings to 750,000 tons. A 1.85 million ton crop plus carryover and imports would give a 2.625 million ton supply. The projected total consumption is 2.17 million tons leaving a 450,000 ton ending stocks for 2012. This will put more upward pressure on prices.

Some loan peanuts that were not contracted in 2010 have recently sold for \$750 per ton. This suggests prices for 2011 should be at least start out in the \$700 to \$800 ton range. The 80 cent medium runner price for Golden's flex price contract suggests farmer stock prices could approach \$900 per ton. The crop has far to go, but it is shaping up to be a short year for production causing concern for 2012.

Peanut Planted Acreages

(1,000 acres)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011*
AL	160	195	155	190	170
FL	130	150	115	145	145
GA	530	690	510	565	480
MS	19	22	21	19	18
NM	10	8	7	10	9
NC	92	98	67	87	77
OK	18	19	14	22	24
SC	59	71	50	67	70
TX	190	257	165	165	145
VA	22	24	12	18	14
US	1,230	1,534	1,116	1,288	1,152

*Source: NASS Acreage Report, June 30, 2011

June 30 Acreage Report

Georgia 7 Major Row Crops Planted Acres*								
<i>(1,000 Acres)</i>								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	Mar 31 2011	Jun 30 2011	10/11 Acre Diff	% Up/Down
Corn	510	370	420	295	330	365	70	24%
Cotton	1030	940	1000	1330	1450	1450	120	9%
Peanuts	530	690	510	565	540	480	-85	-15%
Sorghum,	65	60	55	45	45	35	-10	-22%
Soybeans	295	430	470	270	210	170	-100	-37%
Tobacco	18.5	16	13.8	11.4	12	11	-0.4	-4%
Wheat	360	480	340	170	250	250	80	47%
Total	2809	2986	2809	2686	2837	2761	74.6	3%

Question Of the Week – African Cleome Spiderflower

Question of The Week

Last week's question was concerning identifying a weed. It was African Cleome Spiderflower, also known as Skunkweed. It is very smelly.

This week I'd like you to tell me what caused this damage to a watermelon a farmer was about to harvest?



Cotton Fertilization and Aphids

Late Planted and Uneven Stand Cotton Fertilization



Ray Hunter III (Little Man) is helping his daddy and I look at some dryland cotton that ended up coming up to a good stand, although somewhat uneven.

Dr Glen Harris, UGA Extension Crop Scientist, gives us some good information below concerning how to fertilize late-planted cotton and uneven stands.

Due to the extreme and exceptional drought in south Georgia, we have a lot of late-planted June cotton and fields with uneven stands this year. Some key points to remember when adjusting to this situation are:

1) Don't try to rush the crop by overfertilizing with nitrogen – Unfortunately you can not fertilize your way out of a drought. I wish you could. And in fact, trying to rush a late-planted crop with extra N can actually backfire and delay maturity making matters even worse. Go with conservative sidedress N rates on dryland (50 to 60 lb N/a depending on how much preplant N was applied) according to yield goals. If the rain situation improves as the crop progresses, you can always make up some ground with foliar (up to 20 lb N/a if you use feed grade urea and are willing to foliar feed more than once).

2) Apply sidedress N on the early side – The normal ‘window’ for sidedressing N is from first square to first bloom. For late planted cotton, especially dryland, you may want to hedge more toward first square than first bloom. Unfortunately, many preplant N applications were skipped and sidedress N is the first N fertilizer the cotton plant is receiving. Again, be cautious of applying too much N to late-planted cotton too early.

While it is true that most new cotton varieties fruit up earlier, and it makes sense they would need N earlier, there is also the strong possibility that you could interfere with the plant wanting to shift from vegetative mode to reproductive mode, that is, making it want to keep growing stalk instead of shifting to putting on bolls. On late-planted cotton you have less time to make the crop and usually can not afford this delay.

3) On uneven stands, fertilize to the majority and hopefully the oldest – I've seen a lot of fields, again dryland, where some cotton had enough moisture to come up early, but then another “flush” came up much later. It is not uncommon to have cotton plants that are near first square and others that have just emerged in the same field. The rule of thumb should be to time your sidedress N application according to which stage you have the most of in the field. This recommendation is easy to follow when you have mostly older (“first square”) cotton, but is much trickier when you have “half and half”, especially if the “tall” cotton and “short” cotton are randomly mixed together and not in large patches. The only danger of sidedressing really young cotton is if you use liquid N and dribble a full rate directly on top or into the terminal. There is also a possibility of you sidedressing N close to very young cotton (2 to 3-leaf) and if it turns dry, you could get some salt injury.

4) Foliar N and K can help “get you through” (but not “do it all”) – Foliar feeding N and K should always be seen as a way to supplement a good soil applied fertilizer program. In times of limited soil moisture, it can be a good way to ‘tie you over’ and get some nutrients into the plant when the plant may be struggling to take up nutrients through the roots. We have seen this (especially with K) on Georgia cotton before, where soil K levels are adequate but due to dry soil conditions, the plant goes almost K deficient during droughts. There are limits of course and it is not recommended to foliar feed anything if the crop is drought stressed to the point where it is “wilted by noon”. Also, it may be tempting to try to foliar feed N instead of sidedress until you

see you have some true yield potential on drought-stressed dryland. However, this is not recommended. If a dryland crop is ready to sidedress i.e. at first square, I would recommend sidedressing N over foliar feeding.



Aphids are still a concern in cotton, although the beneficial fungus should take them out soon. Also, as you can see here on the left some white scymnus lady beetle larvae are doing their part at taking some out.

Later,

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