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

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Seminole Crop News

Birds – Whistling Duck, Ibis, Yellow Crowned Night Heron

I took this photo this week of some ducks in the edge of a corn field I'd been asked to come look at. They were large birds I'd never seen. They are Black bellied Whistling ducks. Apparently we've had them for the past couple of years. Thanks to Crystal Milner for helping me identify them. In Mexico, the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is known as "pato maizal," or cornfield duck. They were in the edge of a cornfield in a wet area.

We recently photographed this Yellow Crowned Night Heron on Spring Creek on an overcast rainy day. They are very shy and we were fortunate to see it. They are often nocturnal. My mother , Joann identified this bird for me. It has a fish it's about to eat.

This American White Ibis was feeding near the heron above on Spring Creek as well. They were fun to watch. They love to catch and eat crawfish.

8 Aug

Question of the Week – Ginkgo Tree

Last week I asked what kind of tree was in the photo with fruit on it. It was a female Ginkgo. The Ginkgo has separate male and female trees and is sometimes called the Maidenhair Tree. Males are more desirable due to not having the bad smelling fruit. Some people have a poison ivy type reaction to handling the fruit. This tree has a golden color in the fall, and has interesting leaves. The tree has some medicinal property but I can't remember what it is…. oh yeah… memory enhancement.

This week I have a weed ID question. What is this grassy weed?

8 Aug

Peanut Disease

White Mold (sclerotium rolfsii) is showing up in many peanut fields. In this field I was in there were many “hits” but they were thankfully small and were not “running” down the row. The grower had used a white mold material 14 days ago and will spray again today.

Here's an August Peanut disease update from Dr Kemerait, UGA Extension Scientist.

To effectively manage all of the diseases that may affect a peanut crop, growers must begin taking preventative measures before the season even begins. Such measures include selection of more resistant varieties, application of an in-furrow fungicide, and by use of a nematicide to protect the developing plant. These treatments, and early season leaf spot and white mold fungicide applications, are ideally PREVENTATIVE and are meant to protect the peanut plants from diseases likely to develop during the season.

The success of an early-season disease management program often becomes quite obvious as the crop moves into August- by this time white mold and leaf spot are certainly active and the effects of Rhizoctonia limb rot, Cylindrocladium black rot and nematodes may also be apparent. Symptoms of such diseases may be quite limited, or even nearly non-existent where a grower has coupled good crop rotation practices with other factors, to include an effective fungicide program. In other cases, the grower may "suddenly" discover an explosion of leaf spot or white mold in his field. Below are some suggested recommendations for managing peanut diseases given the problems we anticipate in 2011.

- For growers who have scouted their fields and have not observed any disease problems, the current management program they are using is likely to be sufficient throughout the remainder of the season, unless weather patterns become extremely favorable for disease development and spread. At such time the grower may choose to tighten the spray interval (for example from 14 to 10-12 days) and perhaps switch fungicides (for example from a tebuconazole/chlorothalonil mix to something more potent).

- Where growers are beginning to see (or are seeing) a problem with leaf spot diseases (early or late leaf spot and NOT "funky" leaf spot or chemical burn), they may also tighten the spray interval, incorporate systemic fungicides into their leaf spot program (something other than chlorothalonil or Elast), consider use of Provost or Headline programs (excellent on leaf spot), or alternate applications of tebuconazole mixed with chlorothalonil with applications of tebuconazole mixed with 5.0-10.0 fl oz/A thiophanate methyl (e.g. Topsin M).
- Growers who are concerned with the development and spread of white mold in a field can again tighten the spray interval, time applications to take advantage of planned irrigation events or anticipated rain events, spray the peanuts at night, and perhaps begin use of a fungicide with improved efficacy against white mold. Additionally, growers can (in most instances where tebuconazole has not already met or exceeded the use limit for a season) extend the white mold protective interval by making applications of tebuconazole + an additional leaf spot material late in the season. Such can improve the management of the disease where late-season conditions favor continued development of the disease.
- In the early pegging stage, a grower can apply Temik 15G and other products like NemOut and Enclosure to try and provide additional suppression of the peanut root-knot nematode. Treatment with Temik 15G has been effective (but cannot be done within 90 days of harvest); studies continue on the efficacy of NemOut and Enclosure. Additionally, growers should take the opportunity late in the season to DETECT nematode problems in their fields by a) taking soil samples from stunted areas and b) digging plant samples to detect galled roots and pods. Such information will allow the grower to make better nematode management decisions in the future.

8 Aug

Crop Dusters at Work

Crop Dusters have been busy lately. Here's aerial applicator Patch Price spraying some cotton near Lake Seminole for stink bugs and with a plant growth regulator. I took these photos from the air last week. Aerial applicators can cover a lot of ground in a hurry, no matter how wet the field is.

Here's some more information about Crop Dusting from the National Association of Aerial Applicators.

"Agricultural aviation is an important part of the overall aviation and agriculture industries. The industry consists of small businesses and pilots that use aircraft to aid farmers in producing a safe, affordable and abundant supply of food, fiber and biofuel. Aerial applicators protect forestry and play an important role in protecting the public by combating mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus, encephalitis and other diseases

Aerial applicators are highly trained professionals who have made a very large investment in their business. Like all Americans, they are concerned with human health, the environment, security and performing their job in a responsible manner.

Aerial application is a critical component of high-yield agriculture. High yield agriculture, which includes the responsible use of crop protection products, benefits the environment by producing maximum crop yields from fewer acres. Some farmers apply their products from the ground using ground equipment, but many have realized that using an ag plane to do this work is often more efficient and effective. For example, aircraft can treat wet fields and spray when crop canopies are too thick for ground rigs. Unlike ground rigs, aerial application does not contribute to topsoil runoff. Moreover, when pests or disease threatens a crop, time is critical. At a

minimum, an airplane or helicopter can accomplish three times as much application work as any other form of application can.”

Here’s a couple more aerial aerial photos taken last week.

8 Aug

Finally Cutting Some Good Hay

Recent rains have made it possible for us to be cutting some good hay. I've heard reports of some good bermuda grass hay being cut. Here's an aerial shot I took last week of a partially cut hayfield near Reynoldsville. We need to be aware of possible caterpillar problems in pastures and hayfields. Here's a link to a good Fall Armyworm publication that discusses lifecycles and many more facts. http://bit.ly/pPUMbw