



Terrell County Extension

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We now have a monthly report that comes to our office that tells us how many times our web site has had a visitor. We just received our 1st report for July and August 2010. 1094 in July and 1405 in August. That may not seem like a large number, however, we just started asking you to visit our web site a couple of months ago through newsletters and you have responded. With the economic crunch we are all experiencing our office web site is very a very useful tool for information transfer from us to you. Please keep using our web site. We can do a lot more with it and now that we see you are using it, we can use it to get valuable crop information to you quickly.

HOMEOWNER

The Landscape Alert website (**www.ugaurbanag.com**) is a very useful site to find information for homeowners. The article below is only a highlight of the article available from the website. I encourage you to save this site as a favorite and refer to it at least monthly for timely landscape alert and other information.

The Landscape Alert

An outreach of the UGA Center for Urban Agriculture –
www.ugaurbanag.com

Prepare Now for Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua*) Emergence this Fall

Patrick McCullough

Extension Weed Specialist, University of Georgia

Annual weeds establish from seed and complete their lifecycle in one year. Summer or warm-season annual weeds (like crabgrass) establish in spring, grow actively in summer, and die out in fall. Winter or cool-season annual weeds (like annual bluegrass) establish in fall, grow from fall to spring, and complete their lifecycle in warm temperatures in late spring.

Failure to control annual weeds in late summer may predispose turfgrasses to winter weed infestations. In many lawns, it is fairly common to see turf with significant summer crabgrass populations have problems with annual bluegrass in fall. Open areas left in turf where crabgrass was once actively growing may permit annual bluegrass invasion during periods of peak seed germination. Controlling crabgrass now or in late summer could significantly improve turf cover, growth, and competition with annual bluegrass.

Mowing frequency also influences turfgrass growth and susceptibility to annual bluegrass infestations.

Encouraging turf recovery from summer stress may include modifications to fertilization programs

Fall aerification of cool-season grasses may also influence annual bluegrass infestations. .

Preemergence herbicides may prevent annual bluegrass infestation via seed and limit current infestations from further spreading. However, preemergence herbicides will not eradicate established plants and will not effectively control perennial biotypes of annual bluegrass from spreading vegetatively.

GRAIN SORGHUM ARMYWORM RECS

ARMYWORM, FALL ARMYWORM, CORN EARWORM IN WHORL:

Seedling plants, treat when stand loss reaches 10 % OR 40% or more plants are infested. Whorl stage plants, do not initiate controls unless 40% or more of the plants in a field are infested. Economic losses probably do not occur unless population levels exceed 1 larvae per plant. Apply spray by ground directing spray into whorls using cone nozzles with large droplet size and at least 25 gal/acre of spray. For large infestation use tank mix of OP (Organo Phosphate) insecticide plus a pyrethroid.

GRASS PASTURE AND HAY FIELD HERBICIDES

Tim R. Murphy, Extension Agronomist-Weed Science has just released a new publication concerning forage herbicides.

For many years, 2,4-D (several trade names), dicamba and 2,4-D + dicamba were the primary herbicides used for broadleaf weed control in pastures and hay fields. While these products are still valuable components of broadleaf weed management, several new herbicides have been registered in recent years for weed control in pastures and hayfields. In the publication is a discussion of the characteristics and uses of these herbicides.

Here is the direct link to this publication; <http://bit.ly/b4xlg6>.

TEMIK CANCELLATION

Bayer CropScience is cooperating with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) following the recent announcement to cancel uses of aldicarb, sold as Temik® brand insecticide/nematicide. This decision follows a new dietary risk assessment process recently completed by the Agency. Although the company does not fully agree with this new risk assessment approach, Bayer CropScience respects the oversight authority of the EPA and is cooperating with them. This decision does not mean that aldicarb poses a food safety concern. The company will voluntarily phase out production of aldicarb by December 31, 2014. All remaining aldicarb uses will end no later than August 2018. Aldicarb is registered for use as a systemic insecticide and nematicide on agricultural crops.

During the phase-out, the pesticide will continue to be registered for use on cotton, dry beans, peanuts, soybeans, sugar beets, and sweet potatoes.

Peanut Maturity

It is very important to remember that maturity range can be affected by several factors, especially climatic factors such as temperature and moisture. You can have the same or two different cultivars in the same maturity group planted on

the same day in different fields mature at different rates due to soil type differences, rainfall variation, or pest problem differences. Do not assume that a cultivar will always mature at its “normal” rate.

It will be critically important to stay on a fungicide program up until two weeks of harvest, even in October when we start to get cooler. Occasional rainfall events and warm temperatures are still enough for diseases to spread.

CONDENSE THE FOLLOWING PEANUT POINTERS

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- **Peanut Cultivars and Maturity Ranges**
- **Irrigation Decisions late in the Season**
- **Trouble-shooting late season failures in leaf spot control**
- **Late Season White Mold Control**

Peanut Cultivars and Maturity Ranges (Beasley)

I have received several inquiries from county agents concerning the maturity range of the cultivars we have planted across the state. It is difficult to keep them straight. Here are the runner cultivars and their relative maturity range under “normal” growing conditions.

Early (120-130 DAP)

AT 215

Mid Maturity Range (135-140 DAP)

Georgia Green

Georgia-06G

Tifguard

AT 3085RO

Georgia Greener

Georgia-03L

AP-4

Mid-Late (7-10 days later than Mid Maturity cultivars)

Florida-07

Georgia-07W

McCloud

AP-3

Late (2-3 weeks later than Mid Maturity cultivars)

Georgia-02C

York

It is very important to remember that maturity range can be affected by several factors, especially climatic factors such as temperature and moisture. You can have the same or two different cultivars in the same maturity group planted on the same day in different fields mature at different rates due to soil type differences, rainfall variation, or pest problem differences. Do not assume that a cultivar will always mature at its “normal” rate. I would not be surprised to see a Georgia-06G reach optimal maturity at 130 days if planted in early June due to the heat unit accumulation in June and July. Any cultivar may have started blooming earlier than normal due to the heat units. On the other side, we have seen our April planted trials take 145-150 days for the mid maturing cultivars to reach optimal maturity due to the cool mornings in April delaying bloom initiation.

Once the minimum temperature drops into the lower 50's and upper 40's you will see the maturation process slow, but not stop. Our experience is that the maturation process does not stop until the temperature drops into the lower 40's or lower. The “normal” minimum temperature at Tifton (based on an 83 year average) is 61 degrees on October 1st and 51 degrees on November 1st. Therefore, if we have “normal” minimum temperatures through October and early November, then we should see the maturation of fields planted in early to mid June continue until optimal maturity is reached.

Peanut fields planted on June 15 will be 139 DAP on November 1st. Any fields planted after June 15th will be at some risk of not reaching optimal maturity if we below normal temperatures in November, which is more likely to happen than in October. We must be patient with these late planted fields. Unless we have minimum temperatures like we did in October of 2006 and 2008 where we dropped into the 30's for several mornings in a row, we should be OK.

It will be critically important to stay on a fungicide program up until two weeks of harvest, even in October when we start to get cooler. Occasional rainfall events and warm temperatures are still enough for diseases to spread.

(top)

Irrigation Decisions late in the Season (Beasley)

Producers that have the capability to irrigate may be tempted to discontinue irrigation because it is “fall”. It doesn't matter what day the calendar is on, fields that are still 3 weeks or longer away from harvest may need to be irrigated. October is typically the driest month of the year. In

most years, a high percentage of fields would have already been harvested or within a couple of weeks of harvest as we enter October. However, because we planted as much as 40% of the acreage in Georgia after May, there are a lot of fields that may need to be irrigated well into October.

If a field is more than three weeks from harvest and is in need of moisture, apply up to 1.5 inches in a week. Fields that are greater than three weeks from harvest have a high percentage of pods that still need to finishing filling out and maturing. Do not back off on irrigation even if it is in October and the temperatures are cooler. One thing in our favor in October is there is typically lower humidity, which means less evapotranspiration.

(top)

Trouble-shooting late season failures in leaf spot control (Kemerait)
Diseases, especially white mold, have been more difficult to control in 2009 than usual. White mold got an early jump on the peanuts with very warm soil conditions soon after emergence. Mid-season rains helped to further fuel white mold in many fields.

As growers approach the end of the season, there are several things that you may want to consider with them.

1.Late season control of leaf spot diseases. Unlike white mold management, where we never expect to get perfect control, growers should be able to achieve very good, even excellent, control of leaf spot in nearly every peanut field. In fields where late leaf spot or early leaf spot is causing plants to have significant defoliation prior to harvest, growers must try to figure out what went wrong with their leaf spot fungicide management program. They may also need to determine if there is anything that can be done to “salvage” leaf spot control at the end of the season. For example, on Tuesday, 8 September, Edd Harrison and I visited several fields of peanuts in Mitchell County planted to Florida-07.

- 1.The three fields were planted adjacent to each other and were each managed basically the same.
- 2.The fields have been treated with chlorothalonil for early-season leaf spot control and with a mixture of tebuconazole (7.2 fl oz/A) + chlorothalonil (12 fl oz/A).
- 3.The fields each received irrigation approximately 24 hours after the application of the fungicides to wash some of the tebuconazole to the crown of the plant for improved white mold control.
- 4.The grower reports he is about to apply his final application of tebuconazole + chlorothalonil this week.
- 5.These fields had been long planted to sod and have only been planted to peanut in 2008 and 2009.
- 6.The fields are 120 days old and approximately three weeks from harvest.

1.There is very little white mold apparent in any of these fields. In one of the fields, late leaf spot is so severe that numerous spots are present on all of the leaves and nearly 50% of the foliage has defoliated. As severe defoliation will weaken the pods, it will be necessary to dig the peanuts in

this field before they are at their peak maturity. In the adjacent field, late leaf spot is spread over the entire field and in the next 7 to 10 days, the defoliation will be as severe here as in the previous field. The final field shows very good control leaf spot; the little that is present is appropriate in such a field at this time of season. Because the amount of leaf spot present in two of the three fields was so severe, it indicates that there was some serious problem with the leaf spot program. It is critical now to determine what went wrong in those fields.

1.Possibility 1. A combination of peanuts-behind-peanuts and wet weather favoring diseases created a situation where disease overwhelmed a traditional leaf spot program. Certainly, the weather and back-to-back peanuts did not help the leaf spot control; however the fungicide program described and the variety planted (Florida-07) should have been more than adequate to effectively manage leaf spot in this situation.

2.Possibility 2. Human error. Perhaps the sprayer was not properly calibrated or perhaps the applicator did not mix the right amount of fungicides in the spray tank. These things are possible, but the grower says this did not occur to his knowledge. Also, the tremendous amount of leaf spot in two fields suggests that the poor control of leaf spot resulted from more than a problem with a single application. It appears that something more serious occurred over a substantial part of the season.

3.Possibility 3. The resistance in the late leaf spot pathogen to tebuconazole (active ingredient in products like Folicur) that leaf spot control was lost. This is a possibility; however $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of chlorothalonil was mixed with every tebuconazole application to boost leaf spot control AND effective leaf spot control was achieved in one of the fields.

4.Possibility 4. The irrigation with a tow gun in the first field and with a center pivot in the second field was initiated too quickly after the application of the fungicide. This would create a situation where too much of the fungicide was washed to the crown of the plant leaving the crop vulnerable to leaf spot. The grower insists that he waited 24 hours to begin irrigating his fields and this should have been a more than adequate waiting period.

5.Possibility 5. Stray rain showers developed too quickly after the fungicides were applied and washed too much of the fungicide to the crown of the plants. In a season like the one we have had in 2009, this is entirely possible. However, based upon different levels of leaf spot in each field, it would suggest that the showers were so spotty as to affect one or two fields, but not the third field immediately adjacent to both.

6.Possibility 6. The grower reports that he ready to apply his fourth tebuconazole-chlorothalonil spray to the fields. It is also believed that the crop in each field is 120 days old. If the grower used a standard spray schedule, he would have begun his program approximately 30 days after planting and continued on a 14-day schedule until completion of seven applications. By my calculations, the final spray of a 4-block tebuconazole-chlorothalonil program should have been applied 100 days after planting, not 120 days after planting. If this is indeed the case, it implies that the grower is somehow three weeks behind in his spray program. If this is correct, the combination of back-to-back peanuts, plenty of rain, and a delay in applications could be a large part of the answer for some of the disease management problems.

7.What to do now? For the grower, it is too late to do anything to protect the field with significant defoliation; he will likely need to dig early to avoid

too much loss of peanuts at harvest due to weakened pegs. In the second field, it may also be too late to do much; however we have advised him to include Topsin-M, 5 fl oz/A, with his next tebuconazole- chlorothalonil tank mix and to tighten his spray interval. To protect the third field, we have advised him to follow this program as well.

We are to never fully understand why control of leaf spot was so bad in two of the fields and pretty good in one of the fields. However, the most important aspect is to go through the exercise above so that the problem can hopefully be avoided next season.

(top)

Late Season White Mold Control (Kemerait)

Many agents have asked for recommendations to maintain control of white mold in a season like 2009 where the disease outbreak has been especially severe. One option is to prolong the white mold management by applying an additional white mold spray after completion of a four-block program. If the white mold is truly severe enough in a field (remember that we cannot control every hit of white mold) then adding additional fungicide may be a good answer.

If a grower does extend his white mold management, it is important that he follow the restrictions on the label. For example, it may be against the label to apply more than 28.8 fl oz/A of tebuconazole in a single season. Also, it may be against the label to apply flutolanil (Convoy and Artisan) to a field within 40 days of harvest.