



Terrell County Extension

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The following newsletter focuses on peanuts this week. We are entering a time of the year in peanut production and determining peanut maturity which is a vital component of peanut production.

PEANUTS

PEANUT MATURITY

We will run this peanut reminder each week for a few weeks. When we have to add days checking maturity, it will be announced here. If we get really pushed to get information to you, we will send a notice via the mail and/or phone calls to your home or cell phone with the information. Checking peanut maturity is critical to attaining your maximum yield from your crop and we want to help you as you make these peanut digging decisions.

Dr. John Beasley will visit our county Friday September, 10th. He will be onsite from 10:00am until noon. His primary reason for his visit is to meet peanut growers who will bring in a sample to test for maturity.

We will be checking peanut maturity (Hull Scrape) on Tuesday's of each week from 9:00a.m. till 12 Noon.

We will look for you at the shed behind the Terrell County Extension office. Please bring a representative sample from your field/s. If you want to pick the peanuts off the vines first, please bring at least one plant with you so we can check vine health and peg strength. **Please stay around and help. Sometimes it can get very busy and the more help we have the quicker we can run maturity samples.**

We will try being available for maturity sampling every Tuesday until the number of samples increases, then we will add days we will offer checking.

How to pull peanut maturity samples

Most of you will pull your own samples and it is very important you do a good job in order to be as accurate as possible;

1. It doesn't matter what the peanut maturity is if your vines and pegs are weak and beginning to decompose. It probably won't be a terrible year for that, but keep this in mind. Please bring some of the vines with peanuts intact so we can evaluate the health of the pegs and vines.

2. When you pull samples make sure they come from an area that is a good representation of the field. In other words, don't pull samples in bottoms, field edges or hilltops. Try to find a section that has the same soil type as most of the field on a relatively flat spot. Remember, if the field is irrigated the sample MUST come from a spot that gets good coverage by the system.
3. When you pull plants for the sample make sure you are able to pull up the entire plant including runner limbs. Usually about 4-6 plants will be enough to get a representative sample.
4. When removing the peanuts for the sample you must remove every peanut from the plants you decide to sample before you include another plant in the sample. Otherwise, if you randomly pull peanuts from different plants for the sample you will receive poor results.
5. Make sure the sample consists of between 180 and 200 peanuts.
6. It is also important to pull the peanuts as close as possible to the time they are to be evaluated. If you pull peanuts in the morning that is when they should be tested. Peanut hull colors can change in a short amount of time. It may be helpful to put them in water in a bucket if it will be more than a few hours before they can be evaluated.
7. When we have three consecutive evenings where temperatures are 45° F or below . . . dig your peanuts. They will not progress any farther as the peanut plant begins to shut down in these conditions. Any delay in this type situation will ultimately reduce yield.
8. Although days until maturity with peanuts is not accurate enough to base digging decisions on, remember the "123" rule to determine how old your peanuts are. For any day in May it is 123 days until the same day in September. For example, if you planted on May 5 by September 5 the peanuts will be 123 days old.

John Beasley, Georgia Extension Agronomist

Dr. Beasley will visit Terrell County Friday September 10th. He will be onsite beginning at 10:00am

Insect problems continue. I've passed some fields this week where you could see the white cow birds. They weren't just hanging around out there. They were grazing on worms. I'm getting some calls about white mold and leaf spot pressure, with questions about shifting chemistry. I still can't say that 100% of our peanuts got rain and, in fact, I've seen fields that probably missed it; but since last week we've had far more hits than misses. The rain will help a big percentage of the earlier crop fill out. They may not hit maximum potential, but this will certainly give those fields a boost. And the rain will jump-start some of our later peanuts that haven't done much in this dry, hot period. If they continue to get frequent rain and better growing temperatures, we could see them set some additional pods that can be harvested. Looking ahead, we've got about 8 weeks of potential growing season, so there's still hope. A very limited amount of harvest could start the first few days of September. These would be peanuts planted in the April 15-20 period.

Comments from Dr. Bob Kemeraït, UGA Extension Plant Pathologist

Fungicide applications for white mold and leaf spot;

WHITE MOLD & LEAF SPOT: Current weather conditions and crop development are **PERFECT** for a blow up of white mold and also leaf spot. This is perhaps the worst white mold season in years.

Applying soilborne fungicides at night is one way to improve coverage and hopefully control of white mold. As long as the fungicide applied for white mold control also offers some systemic control of leaf spot, then the night-time application will control both soilborne and foliar diseases.

For example, Provost and Abound applied at night offer control of soilborne diseases **AND** leaf spot diseases. ARTISAN (flutolanil + TILT) + chlorothalonil applied at night controls both soilborne **AND** leaf spot diseases. Tebuconazole (7.2 fl oz/A) + chlorothalonil (0.75-1.0 pt/A) **SHOULD** provide both soilborne **AND** leaf spot control unless the leaf spot population becomes nearly resistant to Tebuconazole.

HOWEVER: CONVOY (flutolanil) + chlorothalonil (1.5 pt/A) **WILL NOT** provide adequate control of leaf spot when applied at night because CONVOY has no efficacy against leaf spot and chlorothalonil is **NOT** systemic.