



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Peanut Production Update
- Peanut Disease Update
- Worms in Peanuts



Peanut Production Update

Jodd Baughman - Extension Peanut Agronomist

The next 45 days will be the final push to finishing out much of this year's peanut crop. The two most important things that we can do is to keep up with water demands as much as possible and not allow pest (especially insects and disease) to limit our yield production. However, while we definitely want to be proactive in our pest management we do not want to spend unnecessary dollars on this

year's crop or create additional problems such as spider mites by spraying sub-threshold insect levels. We are currently



Peanut Irrigation.

in the period of very high water use demand. Peanuts are still in the period of effective bloom and pod set. With the current cooling trend especially in regards to night time temperatures

it is critical that we do as good a job of maintaining efficient irrigation and setting as many pods as possible. Peanuts currently require between 1.5 and 2 inches of water per week. We have an excellent crop in many parts of the state and it appears that only through adequate irrigation will we be able to continue to maintain that crop this year. If you have any production issues or questions give me a buzz @ 940.552.9941 ext. 233.

Peanut Disease Update

Jason Woodward - Extension Plant Pa- thologist

Over the past few weeks, producers have been asking quite a few questions regarding the current disease situation, and I have

received several disease samples during this time. Some of the diseases we are seeing include Verticillium wilt, Sclerotinia blight, and the pod rot complex. Additional fields have recently been treated for leaf spot and

Southern blight. Overall, the most widespread diseases we have seen thus far have been pod rot and Verticillium wilt. Pod rot, while sporadic in nature, is responsible for substantial losses each year. One of the

Peanut Disease Update - Cont.



Rhizoctonia pod rot

“Verticillium wilt is becoming more evident in peanut fields in the region”

Verticillium wilt



factors that complicate the pod rot issue is the proper identification of the causal agent, or pathogen. Numerous fungi are capable of infecting peanut pods during development, causing pod rot symptoms; however, *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Pythium* spp. are responsible for most of the pod rot observed on the southern High Plains. Pods infected with *R. solani* typically have a dry, dull-colored appearance, in contrast to the dark, water-soaked appearance associated with *Pythium* spp. infections. There are no easily visible above

ground symptoms associated with pod rot; therefore, whole plants should be dug and inspected when scouting for this disease. Pod rot is generally managed through protectant fungicide applications. Initial fungicide applications should be made 60-75 days after planting, with subsequent applications made 30 days later. Fungicide products for pod rot control are limited, and depend on the pathogens you are dealing with. The typical use rate of Abound FL for pod rot control is 24.5 fl oz per acre and provides control of *R. solani* and suppression of *Pythium* spp. Various formulations of Ridomil (such as Ridomil Gold SL, and Ridomil Gold PCGR) are labeled for use in peanut; however, the spectrum of activity for these products may vary. Please refer to the pesticide label prior to making any applications.

Verticillium wilt, caused by *Verticillium dahliae*, is an

increasingly important disease in cotton production throughout the southern High Plains, and becoming more evident in peanut fields in the region. *V. dahliae* infects peanut plants early in the season; however, initial symptoms are not typically observed until pod fill. Leaves of infected plants will have a dull-gray appearance, and a marginal necrosis will develop as the disease progresses. A close inspection of the lower stem will reveal a dark brown to black discoloration of the vascular tissue. Information regarding the management of Verticillium wilt is limited; however, studies are currently underway evaluating runner peanut cultivars in fields with a history of the disease. Likewise, trials evaluating chemical options, such as fungicides and fumigants are also being conducted. Information from this research will be used to develop potential management strategies for Verticillium wilt in the future.

Peanut Disease Update - Cont.

Sclerotinia blight, caused by the soilborne fungus *Sclerotinia minor*, has also been observed in fields in western Gaines County. The first obvious symptom of Sclerotinia blight is the wilting of terminals of infected plants. A close examination of the crown will reveal dense cottony-like fungal growth (which is often more noticeable early in the morning),

bleached and shredded stems, as well as the presence of small irregular shaped sclerotia. The use of partially resistant cultivars (runner cultivars Tamrun OL07 and OL02 or Spanish varieties Tamspan 90, OLin, and Tamnut OL06) is beneficial in managing this disease. Preventative applications of the fungicides Omega and Endura, have

lead to improved control when compared to applications made after the observations of symptoms. If you have any questions regarding disease management in peanut, contact Jason Woodward @ 806-746-4053, or via e-mail jewoodward@ag.tamu.edu.

“There are a good selection of products available for worm control in peanuts”

Worms in Peanut

*Kerry Siders, FA-2011
Hockley and Cochran
Counties*

Armyworms (fall, yellow-striped, and beet), corn earworms and saltmarsh caterpillars are being found in most all acres of peanuts in Hockley and Cochran counties of Texas. The number of worms range from 0 to 7 larvae per foot of row. These worms range in age from freshly laid eggs to ready to pupate. Though

most of the damage appears to be to foliage after closer inspection some fields are sustaining damage to pegs. Calls from local consultants also support this observation. However, as with any field crop each field is different and thus requires a person to scout to determine details of an infestation.

In terms of defoliation peanuts can withstand a fair amount of damage. Runner-type peanuts, 80 days from crack, can have up to 30% leaf loss before

yield reduction can occur. The action level to limit this damage would be when worms exceed 6 to 8 larvae per row foot. In Spanish peanuts this may only take 6 to 8 larvae. When the foliage feeding is coupled with feeding damage to the pegs the action level may be lower. When scouting one must take into consideration not only the number and size (age) of the larvae, but also the mortality from predator insects and arachnids, as well as pathogens.





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Worms in Peanut

There are a good selection of products available for worm control in peanuts such as Asana XL, Karate Z, Lannate L, Steward, or Tracer. If secondary pest concerns, such as spider mites, are present you might want to consider using a product such as Tracer.

If you have any questions give me a call at 806-894-2406 or contact your nearest Texas AgriLife Extension Agent or Specialist.



Fall Armyworm

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