

Peanut Production Update



*Jodd Baughman -
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There have been some recent questions about the use of 2,4-DB (Butyrac, Butoxone) on peanut during the reproductive stage of growth (flowering, pegging, pod development). Much of this concern has developed over a study that was conducted in late 70's in South Texas with Spanish peanut. Peanut yields were only affected when 2,4-DB was applied at 3.7 pt/

A. This is over twice the labeled rate of application. In this same research when 2,4-DB was applied at the labeled rate even with multiple application no yield loss was observed. This is in agreement with recent research conducted in Texas on runner and Virginia peanut. Applications made at 1.8 pt/A (maximum labeled rate or 1.75 lb gallon material) from 30 to 120 days after planting did not affect peanut yield or grade. Even multiple applications during the fruiting stage did not affect

yield or grade. If you are considering using 2,4-DB: applications must be made within 100 days of planting or 30 days prior to harvest. I would also recommend applying this product with a crop oil concentrate to increase herbicide activity. Finally, care should also be given to potential drift and tank contamination issue with this product as well. If you have any production questions contact Todd Baughman @ 940.552.9941x233.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Peanut Production Update
- Control of Troublesome Weeds with Postemergence Herbicides
- South Texas Peanut Disease Update

Control of Troublesome Weeds with Postemergence Herbicides

*W. James Grichar -
Research Scientist*

Reports have been received out of south Texas of continued problems in peanut fields with smellmelon. The smellmelon plant is ca-

pable of producing many small melons during the growing season and each melon may contain 300 to 400 viable seed; therefore, the smellmelon problem in a field can increase rapidly over several growing seasons if unsuccessful

control measures are used. As a result, smellmelon is becoming more of a problem in south Texas peanut production fields and has become a problem in several other crops including corn and soybeans along the Texas Gulf Coast. The

Control of Troublesome Weeds with Postemergence Herbicides - Continued



W. James Grichar

“Smellmelon can be a problem at peanut harvest because the melon breaks apart when run through a combine and increases drying time due to the high moisture content of the melon itself. “

range of smellmelon stretches from Georgia to the southern tip of California and as far north as Arkansas. Smellmelon can be a problem at peanut harvest because the melon breaks apart when run through a combine and increases drying time due to the high moisture content of the melon itself.

When early-season herbicide activity starts to break and broadleaf weeds become a problem, the use of a postemergence (POST) herbicide is necessary. When applying a POST herbicide several things must be kept in mind: 1) Always apply a POST herbicide when soil moisture conditions are good since the application of a POST herbicide under drought-stressed conditions will result in reduced weed control because under less than ideal conditions, the herbicide cannot be absorbed and translocated by the plant, 2) always use enough spray volume to achieve good coverage. The failure of many POST herbi-

cides is due to low spray volumes which limit the amount of herbicide that can be taken up by the weeds, and 3) always use a non-ionic surfactant or crop oil concentrate with a POST herbicide to reduce surface tension and aid in absorption of the herbicide by the plant. Herbicide labels will usually suggest which type of adjuvant, if any, is best for the herbicide.

Typically, a yellow herbicide used at planting such as Treflan, Prowl, or Sonalan will provide little or no smellmelon control. Dual Magnum or Valor will control smellmelon early season when applied preemergence but control will be short-lived and will typically last for only 30 to 45 days. Herbicides such as Blazer Ultra at 1.5 pt/A, Cobra at 12.5 oz/A, and 2,4-DB (Butyrac or Butuxone 200) at 0.8 pt/A will control smellmelon for a limited time but these herbicides will not provide any residual control and rainfall or irrigation will result in germination of any smellmelon seeds

that are in the ground. Therefore, when using these herbicides, multiple applications as allowed by the product label may be necessary during the growing season. The use of Cadre or Pursuit at 4.0 oz/A will not only kill any emerged smellmelon plants but will also provide residual control and prevent the emergence of smellmelon plants. In studies that we have conducted in areas of high smellmelon populations over several years, Cadre has controlled 85 to 90% while Pursuit has controlled 60 to 75% smellmelon 8 to 10 weeks after planting. Repeat applications were not necessary. Typically, once the peanut plant has grown and begun to lap, smellmelon becomes less of a problem due to the shading effect. However, if peanut grow off slowly, smellmelon can be a problem season-long. Just a reminder to always follow the herbicide label when using any herbicide. Limitations on application timings and rates must be closely followed.

South Texas Peanut Disease Update

*A.J. Jaks -
Research Associate*

Recent rains over the south Texas peanut growing region were welcome following a dry spring. Peanut planting is still being done in some locations as of early July. Growers should consider applying fungicide sprays to earlier planted fields for foliar disease protection purposes. A peanut variety-fungicide test was planted at a grower location in Frio County. Six peanut va-



rieties were planted in a replicated test on May 27 which included Tamrun OL O2; Tamrun OL O7; McCloud; Florida-O7R and two advanced Texas breeding lines. The first fungicide sprays were applied on July 8. In one fungicide program, blocks of each of the six varieties were sprayed with Bravo Weather Stik at 1.5 pint per acre. In a separate program,

blocks of the varieties were sprayed with Headline at 9.0 fluid ounces per acre. Additional sprays of different fungicides in each of the programs will be applied during the growing season as the need arises. The test includes unsprayed blocks of each of the varieties for disease comparison. The test is being conducted to provide growers with information on the performance of the peanut varieties when sprayed under two different fungicide programs.

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Vines and leaflets of smellmelon



Mature fruit of smellmelon in a field after peanuts have been dug. Each melon is capable of containing 300 to 400 viable seed



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