



Peanut Progress

Peanut Production Update

Todd Baughman - State Peanut Specialist



Many peanut production areas recently received very beneficial rainfall. While this rainfall was very welcome, we must continue to keep vigilant with our irrigation. Cooler temperature, higher humidity, and moisture will bring on a flush of new blooms. To take advantage of this break in summers intense hot dry weather we must not fall behind in our irrigation. The worse thing that we can do right now is to start our irrigation back on

too late and let the crop suffer. As I mentioned in the last issue of peanut progress, we are in the period of peak water demand for the peanut plant. The peanut plant's current water requirement is a minimum of 1.5 to 2.0 inches of water per week. Therefore, if you received 1.0 inches of rainfall you will still need to apply 0.5 to 1.0 inches of irrigation this week and continue on with normal irrigation routine in the future. The crop looks excellent at this point; this week's recent weather should only help to continue to allow the crop to advance on this positive track. We should therefore not allow an excellent crop to fall

backwards due to late timing of our irrigation. The other advantage of staying ahead of the crop right now is we should be able to set an earlier high yielding and high grading crop. If we lose blooms now do to stress than we will have to make that portion of the crop up with later maturing pods. Not knowing what harvest weather will be like this is situation we would prefer to avoid. With this added moisture, we must also continue to scout and manage diseases so that they do not get out of hand and hurt the crop we have out there. If you have any additional questions please give me a shout at 940.552.9941 or tbaughma@ag.tamu.edu.

Peanut Disease Update



Jason Woodward - Extension Peanut Pathologist

The recent rainfall and a break from extremely hot temperatures experienced on the southern High Plains are greatly welcome. Despite this relief, these same conditions are conducive for the develop-

ment of peanut diseases, such as pod rot, leaf spot, and Sclerotinia blight. One of the difficulties in managing peanut pod rot is getting the fungicide you are applying to the target-site (i.e. soilborne

Peanut Disease Update - Continued



Defoliation of Tamnut OLOG as a result of infection with early leaf spot



Early leaf spot lesions on Flavorrunner 458



Sporulation of early leaf spot lesion, Photo courtesy of Albert Culbreath, University of Georgia

pathogens causing disease). I have had several questions regarding the application of pod rot fungicides in light rain. Producers commonly apply irrigation to redistribute fungicides after an application. The archi-

texture of a peanut plant actually aids in the redistribution of fungicides around the pegs and crown. If pod rot is the main disease you are targeting, then applying fungicides to wet foliage in the rain should result in improved control. However, if intense rainfall is received shortly after the application the fungicide may be leached out of the pegging zone.

Minor levels of early leaf spot (caused by *Cercospora arachidicola*) have been reported in many fields throughout the area. While the $>100^{\circ}$ degree temperatures slowed progression of foliar diseases, attention should be paid to leaf spot over the next few weeks. Applications of Abound for pod rot will have some activity on leaf spot; however, leaf spot control may be reduced if applications are made in the rain or followed immediately with irrigation to maximize pod rot control. Initial symptoms of leaf spot generally occur in the lower canopy and consist of small, chlorotic flecks on the leaf surface. As the disease progresses lesions become evident throughout the canopy. Chemical burns can often be confused with leaf spot. The production of microscopic spores within the lesion can be used in the diagnosis of leaf spot. Spores from these lesions are disseminated by wind, rain, or irrigation. New lesions from secondary infections appear after 10 to 14 days after infections occur.

The risk of Sclerotinia blight

(caused by the soilborne fungus *Sclerotinia minor*) development will also increase with the cooler daytime temperatures we are experiencing. The majority of Omega or Endura applications should have been made within the past two weeks. Typical application intervals for these products are approximately 30 days; however, scouting should continue in fields with a history of disease pressure. If you have any questions regarding peanut diseases, contact Jason Woodward @ 806-632-0762, or via e-mail jewoodward@ag.tamu.edu.



Signs of *Sclerotinia minor* on an infect peanut limb



Symptoms of *Sclerotinia blight* in the field

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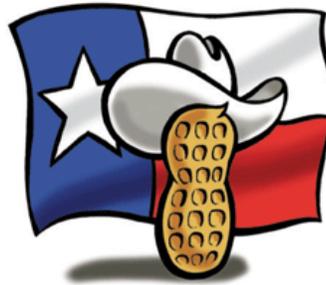
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