Peanut Pointers

June, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Peanut Team

Consecutive Peanut Crops, Replanting, Precautions

Scott Tubbs

With a large peanut crop this season, we knew there would be situations where growers were planting into short rotations. It is of greatest concern when a peanut crop is grown in back-to-back seasons in the same field. There is a large potential for volunteer peanuts in these situations that can cause a bevy of problems for managing the planted crop. By definition, a weed is a "plant out of place", and thus a volunteer peanut is essentially a weed in your planted peanuts. Volunteers can be more problematic in some situations than others, such as in conservation tillage moreso than deep-turned land. However, the county meetings this past winter informed us that there is more reduced-till management currently than we were aware. Hence, with no control over when a volunteer peanut may emerge, the ability to manage or eliminate volunteers in the crop creates varied problems to deal with.

Volunteers that emerge before planting are problematic in the sense that they are a host/harbor for pests that can become a greater problem later in the season. Buildup of disease inoculum or increased number of insects or nematodes initiating their lifecycles earlier can build populations prior to any chemical treatments being applied. Leaving them unchecked can lead to heavy pressure later in the season. With all of this said a grower could knock back volunteers with herbicide. I know this is too late for this season (unless very late planted), but in the future, a grower may consider a different preplant or pre-emergence herbicide program to terminate volunteers before the planted crop emerges.

Volunteers that emerge after planting create issues with plants growing outside of the planted row which could interfere with proper digging and inversion. These plants will be under the same over-the-top spray programs, so many foliar diseases will be under control. However, these will emerge outside of the planted furrow and thus not benefit from any in-furrow applications used to control pest problems. This could potentially increase pathogen pressure in-season. But a large number of volunteer peanuts that emerge days to weeks later than the planted crop will make it harder to get proper inversion, and those less-mature peanuts being included in the harvest could reduce the overall grade of the harvested load for that field if there is a substantial population of volunteers.

From the standpoint of replanting, I have observed some fields with washouts in my travel over the last few weeks. Remember that replanting is both timing dependent, and population dependent. If your initial planting was after around May 20, the potential for a benefit from a supplemental replanting is minimal. Replanting fields that were planted this late will most likely not be cost-effective and will just be an additional expense. Considering that peanuts need to be replanted within 3 weeks after initial planting to be beneficial, and this article is being written on June 9, fields that could benefit from

supplemental replanting should have already been replanted by now. Special circumstances may apply in the case of a field with washouts that have wiped out portions of a field, but have acceptable stands in other parts of the field. In these cases, it can be beneficial to replant portions of the field where washouts occurred. Whether you only replant the washouts vs replanting up and down every row since already in the field depends on several variables. If there is enough seed available without additional expense, and the original planting was no more than around 24 days prior, it can be beneficial to proceed with replanting the entire row even if significant portions of the field have satisfactory stands and don't need replanting. Boosting the populations in these areas can be beneficial as long as you allow these fields to advance later in maturity to allow the replanted plants to catch up. Digging these fields based on the initial plants maturity may reduce grade. But if allowed to stay in the ground longer, losing some overmature pods from the initial planting in

favor of gaining more pods from the replanting can be advantageous. This allows a greater proportion of the crop to gain weight to improve grade, even if overall yield is offset for lost pods vs gained pods from the split crop. This also gives the benefit of expanding the growing season in the event of inclement weather during harvest season. You can afford to leave the peanuts in the ground longer if soil conditions are not favorable for digging at the projected maturity, again since the gains on the backend will offset the losses on the front end of the maturity profile.

Please feel free to contact me for more information or further discussion about different situations that your growers may be facing related to these topics.

Fallow field? Consider a Summer Cover

Taylor Singleton

Recently, I've heard of several fields that will remain fallow this growing season, and some folks have expressed interest in learning more about summer cover crop options to help keep the soil covered. Like planting cool-season cover crops in the fall, if you're thinking about planting a summer cover crop, you need to understand what your goals are with the field, as they are likely a little bit different than a fall cover crop planting:

- **Soil erosion** – The most obvious reason to keep the soil covered is to ensure that the soil remains in place. When we lose topsoil, we lose organic matter and soil structure, which impacts our ability to grow a crop over time. A loss of only 1/32 inch of topsoil can represent a 5 ton/acre soil loss (link to USDA fact sheet). Think about all the time (and money) it takes to "rebuild" your field...this is one factor that can significantly impact our ability to remain profitable over time!

- **Organic matter** – Having (and adding) organic matter to the soil whenever we can is hugely beneficial for our cash crop systems. Not only does organic matter feed the earthworms and microorganisms (= soil health benefits), but it also improves the overall physical condition of the soil, including tilth, soil aggregation, water infiltration, reduces soil crusting, improves nutrient cycling, and improves nutrient retention.

- **N cycling** – In a field that would likely remain fallow otherwise, this is one of the biggest values that a summer cover can bring to the table...helping keep the N around that would normally be lost to leaching. While actively growing, the summer cover crop can take up N (and excess water) from the soil and add it to its tissues. Over time as the residue decomposes or is incorporated at the end of the growing season, that N is then returned to the soil and is available (mostly) for future crops.

- **Pest suppression** – The cover crop-pest dynamic can be tricky when considering a summer cover crop, especially since the warm/wet/humid summer months are typically when we see our biggest pest pressures overall. Having a ground cover will greatly help with weed suppression, suppressing growth of weeds that would normally be adding weed seed back to the soil seed bank during this fallow period. Once terminated, the residues themselves can also act as a mulch to continue the suppression benefits. For insects and diseases however, cover crops can positively or negatively benefit these pest cycles. Often this is species dependent, so careful consideration should go into understanding the species being planted and how it may impact pests that have been observed historically in the field.

- **Wildlife benefits** – If you are a wildlife enthusiast, summer cover crops can offer a way to support wildlife populations through food and shelter. (Just remember to always follow state wildlife and hunting regulations when it comes to planting and management.)

Choosing a summer cover crop species to plant will depend greatly on your budget and overall goal for the field. If N benefits are the objective, then legume species (alone or in a mixture) will be the best choice; if weed suppression or heavy residues are your goal, broadleaves or grasses will provide the greatest benefit.

There are many options to choose from, however several commonly utilized species in the Southeast are included in the table below, along with broadcast and drilled seeding rates (lb/a; use these as a starting place and adjust up or down as desired). Clicking the species name in the table (below) will take you to a fact sheet compiled by the Southern Cover Crop Council, providing a more in depth look at the species and its characteristics.

Grains/Grasses		
	Broadcast (lb/a)	*Drilled (lb/a)*
Browntop Millet	25-30	14-20
Japanese Millet	12-15	10-12
Sorghum	25-30	15-20
Sorghum Sudangrass	25-30	15-20
Pearl Millet	12-15	10-12
Legumes		
	Broadcast (lb/a)	*Drilled (lb/a)*
Cowpeas	80-100	30-90
Sunn Hemp	25-48	20-40
Velvetbean	Not recommended*	20-40
Broadleaves		
	Broadcast (lb/a)	*Drilled (lb/a)*
Buckwheat	90-100	40-60
Sunflower	Not recommended*	10-40

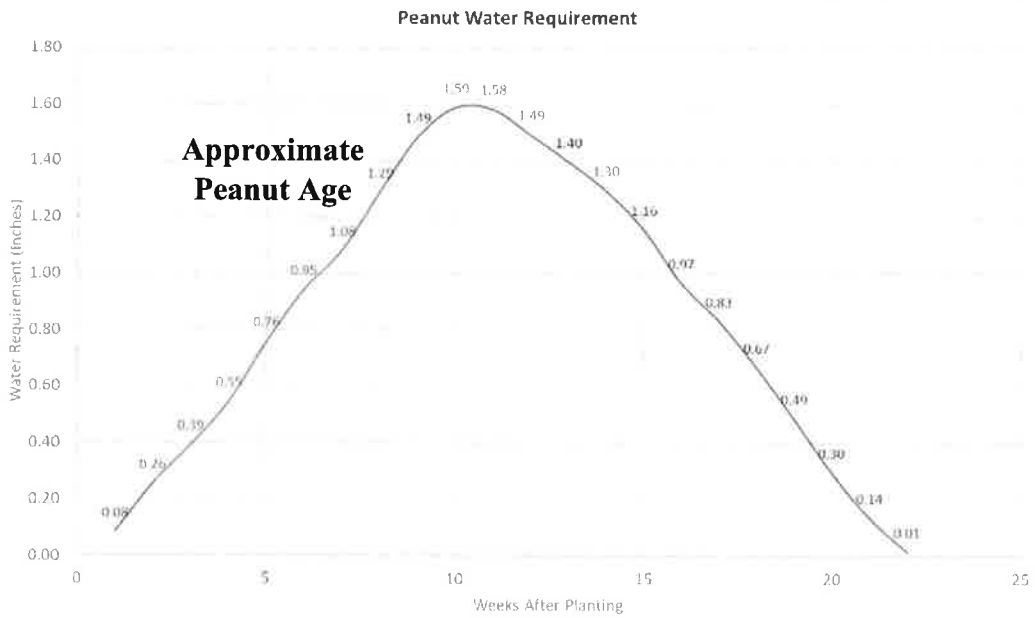
*Not recommended unless timely moisture is available for stand establishment. Excellent seed to soil contact is essential for establishment.

We are currently working to update cover crop resources available through UGA Extension, for both cool-season and warm-season species. Please contact your county extension agent if you have any questions.

Early to Mid-Season Irrigation for Peanuts

Phillip Edwards, David Hall, Jason Mallard, and Wesley Porter

Across the state we have seen and are currently seeing high levels of rainfall in one area while another region is under drought conditions and in desperate need of rains. I have watched 80% and greater chances of rain over the last week of May dissipate as they have reached the Tifton area and across. While this may change by the time you read this article (I actually hope it does), but we need rain and are needing irrigation currently in the southern region of Georgia. I have observed pivots running across this region on all crops in the field. Typically, we try to avoid adding too much irrigation to peanuts during the first 40 days after planting (DAP), but we cannot let that crop sit there in drought stress during the early season. Another consideration for the regions that have been receiving excessive rainfall is that peanuts may have been exposed to saturated conditions for the early part of the season hindering deep root growth and development. Thus, when it does start to dry out, we may require irrigation faster than normal as we will not be accessing deeper moisture in the profile. It is a good idea to check rooting depth and pull a few soil samples to check current moisture conditions and depth in the profile. Keep track of the graph below or use our Irrigation Reference Guide for Corn, Cotton, Peanuts, and Soybeans | UGA Cooperative Extension in the field throughout the month of June to stay on top of your irrigation requirements. Contact your local Extension office if you need a copy of the irrigation reference guide. If your peanuts were planted during late April or early May, most of these earlier planted peanuts are beginning to bloom, so expect water usage to gradually increase. Peanuts will begin flowering on average around 40 days after planting.



Remember the water requirement is [illegible] irrigation efficiency especially on hot dry days. A typical pivot is 85% efficient, so don't under-irrigate, but at the same time don't over-irrigate either as research has shown reductions in yield just as significant for over-irrigating as for under-irrigating. The problem with over-irrigation is that it brings a larger loss in profitability due to the additional cost of non-needed irrigation on top of yield reduction. Good record keeping and a sound irrigation scheduling strategy can aid significantly in increasing profitability in multiple ways, including reductions in irrigation applications, correlating to reductions in energy requirements, and potentially increases in yield.

A couple of quick reminders regarding irrigation of peanuts. Early irrigation applications can tell you very valuable information regarding your water application uniformity. If a Mobile Irrigation Lab test was not conducted, pay close attention to the way your soil dries out after an irrigation application. Unfortunately, this

year I have received multiple pictures of pivots that are not operating at acceptable uniformity, it's a tough uphill battle the rest of the season if it stays dry. If your peanuts were planted into conventional tillage, this will be easy to see especially prior to full canopy closure. Visible bands drying out quickly or bands staying wet for longer periods are signs of poor uniformity. Go to these areas of your pivot and address them now. As the peanut canopy develops and laps, the obvious signs will not be visible. Hot dry weather makes it easy to see if your pivot was working properly due to the extreme heat and drought. The under applying nozzles are easy to see by the evidence presented as stressed crops in bands under the pivot. Doing the same thing twice expecting different results is never good.

Lastly, if you are using soil moisture sensors there are a few things to consider early on. Many times, sensors are "soaked in or wetted up" during installation and require a little time for moisture levels around the sensor to return to field conditions. Keep in mind that we begin to use the individual sensors on the probe as the roots reach the particular depths, therefore sensor readings should be weighted in making decisions early during the season. If you have "weighted" the sensors, be sure to adjust accordingly as the root systems develop. Consider using other tools in conjunction with your moisture sensors. IrrigatorPro (https://irrigatorpro.org/) integrated with a soil moisture sensor system through UGA trials has repeatedly shown higher yields than the Checkbook method. For more assistance and information on IrrigatorPro usage or any other irrigation scheduling tool for peanuts, contact your local UGA Extension ANR Agent.

June 2025 Peanut Pointers

Bob Kemerait

"White mold" is on my mind as I type this article. Though only the 8th of June, nighttime temperatures are already in the mid-70s and daytime temperatures are in the upper 80s and lower 90s. Humidity is high at night, humidity is high during the day. There is a fair chance for rain over the next 10 days. Acres planted to peanuts are up in 2025, perhaps to as much as 950,000 acres. As peanut acreage increases, time between peanut crops in some fields shrinks. Favorable weather conditions alone are enough to increase risk to white mold, but when coupled with shorter rotations, the specter of white mold looms.

White mold could easily become one of the greatest threats to peanut production in 2025. *Agroathelia (Sclerotium) rolfsii*, the fungal pathogen that causes white mold (more properly referred to as "southern stem rot") thrives in hot weather. Lack of rainfall, especially in non-irrigated fields, can make it more difficult to control white mold as rainfall or irrigation within 24 hours after a fungicide application is important to move the fungicide from the foliage to the crown of the plant. Protecting the crown of the plant is an important "target" for management of white mold.

Agroathelia rolfsii can infect peanut plants at any growth stage, but causes the greatest damage when the limbs and foliage along a row have closed. This allows the fungus to easily spread from one plant to the next down the row when conditions are warm and humid. Smaller plants can be affected by white mold early in the season; however spread from one plant to the next is much more restricted as it is difficult for the pathogen to bridge the gap between small plants. Note: It is nearly impossible to stop underground infection of young peanuts unless an effective fungicide is used in-furrow at planting.

Recommendation: Though "white mold programs" typically begin at about 60 days after planting when the peanut canopy is larger and more at risk for disease spread, growers should consider putting something out at 45 days after planting for management of this disease. I believe a more aggressive white mold program is justified this season because of early-season conditions and the potential for shorter rotations between peanut crops. Growers can initiate a "white mold" program by one of three ways.

1. Mix 7.2 fl oz of tebuconazole with a leaf spot material, for example chlorothalonil.

2. Use products like Priaxor or Lucento that have fair white mold activity in addition to strong leaf spot control.

3. Initiate the 3-spray Elatus (7.3 oz) or Excalia (2.0 fl oz/A) programs, noting that additional fungicide should be added for protection from leaf spot.

For several reasons beyond those mentioned above, June is a critically important month for disease management and, sometimes, for nematode management as well. Based on planting date, most of the peanut crop will be between 30 and 45 days after planting at some point in June. Thoughts for consideration include the points below.

1. Fungicide programs for management of leaf spot diseases (except for the earliest and latest-planted peanuts) are typically initiated during the month of June. Leaf spot programs should

begin closer to 30 DAP when A) the field is at higher risk to leaf spot based upon results from Peanut Rx, and/or when B) fungicides to include chlorothalonil, Mazinga, chlorothalonil + Domark, and chlorothalonil + Alto are used as the first fungicide application.

2. Fungicide programs for leaf spot management can safely begin closer to 45 days after planting when A) the field is low-risk to leaf spot diseases as determined with Peanut X, B) fungicides such as Priaxor, Lucento, or

Aproach Prima are used in the opening 45-day fungicide application, or C) Velum, Proline, or Propulse is used in-furrow at planting.

3. Growers should avoid, if at all, possible initiating a peanut fungicide program later than 45 days after planting.

4. The "backbone" of most fungicide programs for control of white mold does not begin until approximately 60 days after planting; however growers often start earlier, especially when short rotation increases risk to disease. Effective ways to begin a white mold program within the first 45 days after plantings are to A) apply Proline (5.7 fl oz/A) in a narrow band over the peanuts, B) include tebuconazole or azoxystrobin with your first leaf spot applications, or C) adopt Elatus or Excalia programs that begin as early as 30 days after planting.

5. Applications of Propulse can be made as early as 45 days after planting to fight leaf spot, white mold, and to supplement earlier nematicide applications for control of nematodes.

The "Good": Timely fungicide applications (before disease is established) are a critically important tactic for controlling disease. Starting your leaf spot program on-time, often in June, sets the stage for a successful disease management program and best yields.

The "Bad": Getting behind in a fungicide program early in the season may allow disease to become established that is difficult (if not impossible) to manage later in the season. While I know some growers wait until 50-55 days after planting to begin their program, I strongly advise you to not wait later than 45 days after planting and to begin as early as 30 days after planting in a number of situations.

June Peanut Pointers

Scott Monfort and Glen Harris

With gypsum (landplaster) availability and cost being a concern this year, it's a good time to revisit UGA's calcium recommendations for peanuts.

Key Questions from Growers:

1. Can I skip gypsum?
2. Can I use an alternative calcium source like Top Flow?

UGA Calcium Guidelines:

- Soil Testing: Take a pegging zone sample (3-inch depth) soon after emergence. Calcium must be absorbed directly from the soil around the pods—plants can't move calcium from leaves to pods.
- Thresholds: Apply gypsum if:
  - Calcium is < 500 lbs/A in pegging zone, OR
  - Ca:K ratio is < 3:1.

If EITHER of these levels are not met, then apply 1000 lb/a gypsum at early bloom to runner-type peanuts. All peanuts to be saved for seed should receive 1000 lb/a gypsum at early bloom even if these levels are met.

Alternative Calcium Sources: Useful if gypsum is unavailable but provides less calcium. Know the calcium content and application rate.

- **Liquid Lime (e.g., Top Flow)**: Let dealers apply as it is a thick material and not good to put through sprayers --- need to water in after application.
  - 3.5 lbs Ca/gal → 15 gal/A = 52.5 lbs Ca/A
  - Will change the pH of the soil
- **Calcium Chloride (10% Ca)**: Apply trough the pivot
  - 11 lbs/gal → 1.1 lbs Ca/gal
  - 20 gal/A = 22 lbs Ca/A
- **Calcium Thiosulfate (6% Ca)**: Apply trough the pivot
  - 10.4 lbs/gal → 0.63 lbs Ca/gal
  - 30 gal/A = 18.9 lbs Ca/A

Lime Products:

- Granular Lime (calcium carbonate) is slower-acting than gypsum (calcium sulfate).
- Only effective if applied before planting—not suitable for pegging-time application, even in fine granular form.

Liquid Calcium Products:

- Be cautious of claims that calcium is absorbed through leaves (foliar calcium) —calcium must be in the soil near pods. – We do Not Recommend Foliar Calcium!

Bottom Line:

For effective calcium nutrition at early bloom, use gypsum at 160–200 lbs/A of elemental calcium. Avoid liming materials at pegging.

June Peanut Pointers

Mark Abney - Entomology

It is mid-June, and most of the peanut fields I have seen in Georgia look pretty good...at least from the road. A lot of you, maybe most of you, have been or will soon be getting questions about lesser cornstalk borer (LCB) in peanut. LCB is a serious pest of peanut, and as I said at our field day recently, this is a pest that should not be ignored. Fields need to be scouted, and those at threshold should be treated.

Folks have asked about moth traps. There are moth traps in fields across South Georgia, and most of them are catching LCB moths. What does that mean? It means there are moths in South Georgia. We should not treat fields based on moth traps, but the presence of moths is an indicator that we should be scouting. Even in outbreak years (which this is not...yet) LCB will not infest every field. Scouting and treating only the fields that are at threshold will save growers money. If we get timely rains after row middles close, we will see LCB numbers dwindle; hot, dry conditions will favor the continuation of infestations through the summer.

If you have questions about LCB management, please do not hesitate to call me.