



May 26, 2021

Burke County Ag News

Irrigating Peanut Fields Treated with Valor (Flumioxazin) During a Hot/Dry Period (Prostko)

The weather forecast for Tifton and many other areas of south Georgia over the next 10 days is not great (> 85 F and < 35% chance of rain). Consequently, growers are wondering if it is a good or bad idea to irrigate cracking peanuts that received a PRE application of Valor. Growers are very conscious of the fact that the potential for Valor injury significantly increases with moisture especially around the time of peanut emergence.

I am of the opinion (*based upon 20+ years of research/field experience with Valor*) that if a grower needs to irrigate a Valor treated peanut field in order to get a good stand, he/she should do so. What is worse? A crappy peanut stand or Valor injury? The impacts from a poor stand are more detrimental than Valor injury. Production/history/research over the last 20 years has confirmed this. Also, an irrigation event of 0.3"-0.5" over several hours is not the same as a 2" rain in 20 minutes!

I recently completed a 3 year study where the main goal was to try and injure the peanut crop by subjecting the field to as much irrigation/rainfall as possible, in these studies, the peanuts received anywhere from 7.8 to 11.2 inches of rainfall/irrigation in the first 30 days after planting. Yes, the peanuts did suffer from Valor injury (*as expected*) but they recovered without yield loss even at a 2X rate (Table 2). UGA does not recommend the use of 6 oz/A of Valor (*also not labeled*) but this high rate was used to demonstrate peanut tolerance and simulate worse case scenarios.

Table 2. The influence of Valor on peanut injury, J-rooting, and yield under high moisture conditions in Georgia (2017-2019)^a.

Valor Rate oz/A	Peanut Injury (%)		Peanut J-Rooting	Yield
	10 DAT ^b	50 DAT	% ^c	lbs/A
0	14 c ^d	8 b	46 a	5842 a
3	31 b	9 b	48 a	5870 a
6	51 a	16 a	50 a	5823 a

Thoughts on crop water use during this dry period (Porter)

Corn: On average I would say the corn across the state is around 10 weeks after planting, some is tasseling, some isn't quite there yet. We are knocking on the door of peak corn water usage. We are seeing roots using moisture as deep as 18+ inches on our sensors now. The problem is we cannot replace moisture this deep with overhead irrigation systems. Here are some thoughts and how I would approach it:

- Apply irrigation amounts of at least 0.3 to 0.5 inches, and don't try to use the irrigation system for a "cooling effect".



- Amounts less than 0.3 inches are going to have very little effect on soil moisture, and the time it takes to apply these small amounts really isn't going to benefit the entire field for cooling, so I strongly suggest based on the time it takes your system to apply it, applying around the 0.5-0.75 inch range every 2-4 days. This will replenish shallow soil moisture, provide the crop with moisture in the root zone and let it transpire and self-regulate its own temperature.
- Now is not the time to fall behind on corn irrigation. With most of our corn moving into peak water usage some systems may need to run almost continually over the next few weeks. Just keep this in mind, if we deplete our deep soil moisture now we will struggle to replenish it without a good soaking rainfall.

Cotton: Most of our cotton is very young and in the stage of not requiring much if any water. Camp Hand, John Snider and I have discussed this and here is what we are currently recommending:

- Temperatures higher than 95 degrees can negatively impact growth and development (see previous Cotton team newsletter).
 - In extremely hot environments it is recommended that growers apply a light irrigation event to help cool the crop.
 - However, similar to corn, very low irrigation applications, most likely won't be much help, so we are recommending that you apply two 0.3 to 0.5 inch events per week.
 - This amount is low enough not to saturate the soil but high enough to ensure that the root zone will have moisture.
- Also keep in mind some of the issues that have already been shared by Camp and Stanley about herbicides and planting into hot dry soil conditions:
 - Planting into moisture is key. When planting into moisture, seeding depth wasn't as important concerning herbicide injury. However, when planting into dry soil, cotton planted 0.7" deep noted 17% higher visual injury from PRE-applied herbicides than cotton planted 0.35" deep.
 - Soil temperature greatly influences cotton germination and root growth. Normal lateral root growth can occur at soil temperatures of 93 F, but soil temperatures above 104 F can severely limit root growth. Next week, soil surface temps could easily get upwards of 115 F. Anything that could be done to reduce soil temps/retain soil moisture could be beneficial with respect to planting and establishing a stand.
- Fields can be pre-watered to help with some of these problems but don't over apply irrigation, usually 0.5" is a sufficient amount prior to planting.
- Avoid planting dryland fields if at all possible over the next few days to week.

Peanuts: Very similar to cotton, most of our peanuts are just being planted or are very young and the water use is very low.

- The recommendation is to apply around 0.3 to 0.5 inches twice a week until we cool down.



- Fields can be pre-watered to help with some of these problems but don't over apply irrigation, usually 0.5" is a sufficient amount prior to planting.
- Keep in mind Eric Prostko's post about the potential for Valor injury and irrigation ([UGA Weed Science Blog - Field Crops and Vegetables](#)).
- These low amounts of irrigation should not cause injury, especially in the current conditions as it is better to get an adequate stand.

[Insect Scout Schools \(Roberts- Cotton/Soybean Entomologist\)](#)

Insect scouting schools will be conducted on June 7, 2021 in Tifton and June 15, 2021 in Midville. Crops to be covered include cotton, peanuts, and soybean. These programs offer basic information on insect pest identification and damage, natural enemies, and scouting procedures. The training will serve as an introduction to insect monitoring for new scouts and as a review for experienced scouts and producers. Program topics include, Bug and Larval Insect Pests, Beneficial Insects, Scouting Procedures, Safety, and an InField Review. Each program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m.

On June 7, 2021 the Tifton Scout School will also be offered online using Zoom. Click the link below if you would like to participate in the virtual training.

<https://zoom.us/j/99567481742?pwd=dGxpeDhsMVNBcWVMWmg3QVRWQlZSZzo>
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[Dicamba Update](#)

Commissioner Gary Black and Dr. Stanley Culpepper went to the EPA in a hard-fought battle to obtain a Georgia state label for Dicamba however they were unsuccessful this year. They are very optimistic about receiving a state label next year, but we must follow the federal dicamba label for this year. On a positive note, the EPA was very impressed with how our UPW training correlates to limited/if any off-target herbicide cases. Bottom line is that you must follow the federal label and as of right now UPW trainings are still every year. We will be submitting a 24C label later this year to try and get it changed to every other year. Cotton cut off day is July 30 and 240ft buffer remains.

[Stink bugs in corn\(Bryant\)](#)

I want to share a quick thought/reminder with you as the corn season progresses with regards to stink bug issues in corn. While I have not heard any reports of major stink bug problems this year it is always only a day or two away. For those of you in southwest and southeast Georgia the majority of your corn is in what I would call the critical stages for stink bug damage potential. From the approximately V10 to R1 growth stages stink bug feeding on the ear will damage the entire ear and can significantly effect yield if pressure is high enough. This is the stage where the ear has not yet or just beginning to emerge from the leaf sheath. When the developing ear is just below the leaf sheath even a single feeding incident can permanently deform the entire ear, reducing overall kernel count of the ear, or even cause the ear to die shortly after emerging from the leaf sheath. Once the ear has emerged



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and pollination has begun stink bug damage will only effect the individual kernels that are fed on and damage potential to overall yield is decreased.

Potential Grain Sorghum contact (Parker/McCann)

Interested in purchasing old crop or perhaps contracting new acreage. I believe the destination is a pet food manufacturer in central SC.

The contact is: Lance Laugen
Ag Motion
llaugen@agmotion.com
612-741-9177

Please give us a call if you have any questions or stop by our office (706)554-2119.

Thank You,

Peyton Sapp, CEC
Burke County Extension