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Picking the Right Peanut Fungicide Program Bob Kemerait

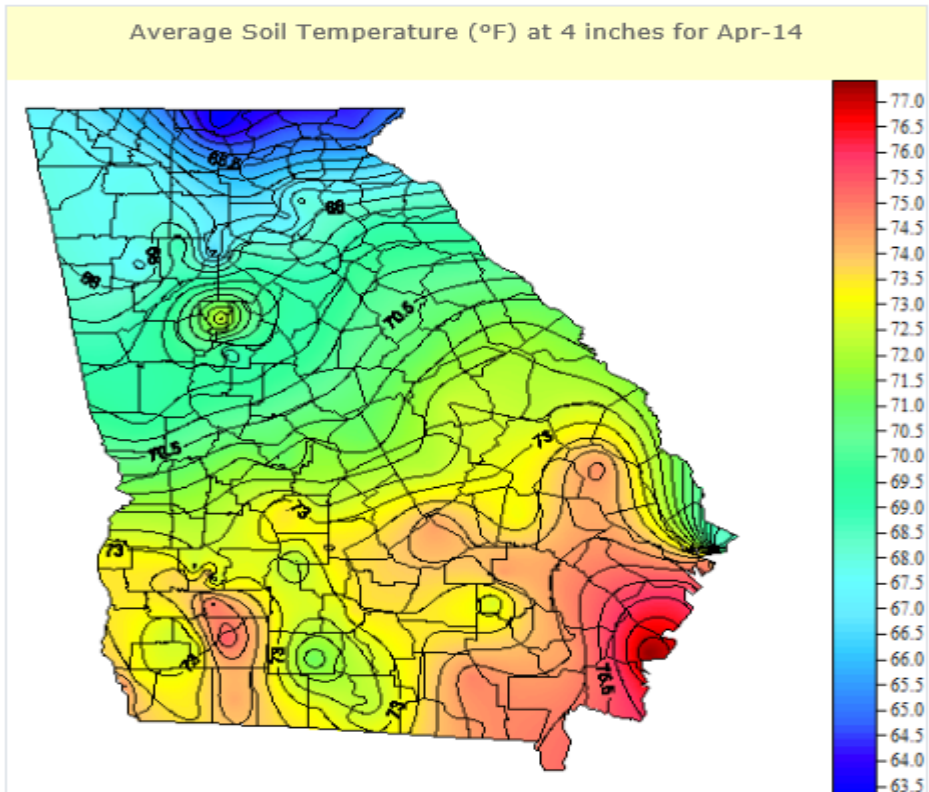
Picking the “right” fungicide program is one of the most complicated (and confusing) decisions that our peanut growers must make every season. I am often asked to share the “best” peanut program; this is an impossible request as there is no “single-best” program. The “best” fungicide program varies from farmer to farmer, and from field to field. The components of a “best” program include:

1. Timeliness of applications; it is critically important to stay AHEAD of disease.
2. Good coverage of the peanut plants; coverage is essential regardless of fungicide program.
3. Properly calibrated sprayers and a spray volume of not less than 10 gal/A.
4. Timely irrigation or rainfall to effectively redistribute the foliar-applied fungicide for control of white mold and Rhizoctonia limb rot; irrigation is most effective if it occurs from approximately 8 to 24 hours after fungicide application.
5. Selection of specific fungicides which are active against the diseases that will occur in a field. (These diseases almost always include leaf spot and white mold, but may also include Aspergillus crown rot, Rhizoctonia limb rot, Cylindrocladium black rot, aka “CBR”, peanut rust, and Pythium pod rot).
6. Selection of specific fungicides with proven efficacy against specific diseases, e.g., CBR, that may be in a field and better efficacy against diseases, e.g., leaf spot and white mold, in “higher risk” situations.
7. Selection of fungicide programs that add “convenience” to the grower. Examples include fungicides that may allow the grower to combine or reduce the number of applications because of improved efficacy and/or a longer protective window. For example, Priaxor allows a grower to combine the first two leaf spot sprays (30 and 45 days after planting) into a single application at 45 days after planting. Use of Velum Total in-furrow for nematode control allows growers to begin their leaf spot program at 45 days after planting. The Syngenta Miravis/Elatus program allows growers to switch from a 7 to a 5 spray program.
8. Use of Peanut Rx disease risk index which allows growers to estimate the risk in their fields to leaf spot, white mold and spotted wilt diseases. By determining their risk, growers can use more aggressive (and costly) programs in higher-risk fields and programs with fewer sprays (and lower costs) in lower-risk fields.
9. Growers who are highly risk-averse when it comes to fungicides and disease in their peanut crop can reduce their worry by choosing more aggressive and higher input programs.
10. Lastly, in addition to points 1-9, cost is certainly an important consideration. In making a final decision on which fungicides to include in a disease management program for peanuts, growers must weigh the initial cost of the program to expected profitability of a program. Lowest price may not result in greatest profitability.

You can obtain the 2019 Peanut RX [HERE](#)

Peanut Planting Tips

- The UGA recommendation for minimum soil temperature for peanut planting is to maintain a daily 68 F average for three consecutive days with no threat of cool weather in the next week of the forecast. The only exception is if it is a non-irrigated field where soil temperatures are 65 to 67 degrees F and there is adequate soil moisture but no rainfall in the forecast. In this case, I would make use of the moisture instead of losing the chance to plant. Please remember the closer to 68 degrees the soil temperature is the faster the emergence rate. To check out soil temperatures please go to <http://www.georgiaweather.net/>



- Scout identify pest and apply correct insecticide at threshold
- Calibrate your sprayers and in-furrow applicators
- University of Georgia Extension recommends growers plant 6 seed per foot to obtain at least 4 uniform plants per foot. This will aid in the reduction of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV) incidence and maintain high yield potential. It is important for growers to know (or ask for) the % germination of the seed they are planting so seeding rates can be adjusted appropriately.
- Moisture is another important factor to consider. Too little or too much can lead to stand issues. Also, do not plant in dry-hot soils and then irrigate afterwards. It can lead to erratic germination and emergence. In these situations always irrigate 0.25 to 0.5 inches before you plant and then again afterwards to activate herbicides. Hopefully you will have adequate moisture to plant non-irrigated fields and receive a shower shortly after planting to activate herbicides.

Herbicide injury (typically Valor injury) is always a topic of conversation this time of year. Several people have asked questions like, "Do I need Valor?" or "Are there ways to minimize injury?". The answer is Yes to both questions. Eric Prostko consistently says "the key to managing weeds is to start clean and use the UGA recommended herbicide programs." With this in mind, one of the key components of recommended weed programs is Valor. It provides the initial protective barrier needed to allow peanut plants time to emerge and cover the ground before weeds have the opportunity to become a problem. The issue is "what can a grower do to minimize Valor injury?"

Growers can minimize injury by:

- Planting High Quality Seed (Germ and Vigor). Seed quality is important in 2019. Find out the % germ of peanut seed that has been purchased.
- Planting in Good Moisture and Temperature allowing the seed the best opportunity to germinate and emerge quickly.
- Planting peanuts at the Correct Depth of at least 1.5” deep. Planting shallower can increase risk of Valor injury along with germination issues, if soil dries out too quick.
- Applying Valor no later than 2 days after planting. The risk of Valor injury goes up significantly the closer Valor is applied to peanut emergence.
- Irrigating as soon as possible behind the Valor application to activate herbicide and reduce injury. Valor injury can still occur after a hard rain during cracking and emergence even though a field was irrigated after application.
- Not irrigating during cracking and emergence unless the fields are hot and dry and need irrigation to ensure a good stand.

Typically, the lack of moisture can result in more stand loss than the loss from Valor injury. Tips to prepare for peanut planting are available in the 2019 UGA Peanut Production Quick Reference Guide, available online at:

<http://peanuts.caes.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-website/extensionoutreach/commodities/peanut-team/docs/2019/2019-peanut-eguide.pdf>

Additional information on peanut production and management can be found at:

<http://peanuts.caes.uga.edu/>

The New NCSU Cotton Planting Conditions Calculator

I recently received this information from Dr. Jared Whitaker, UGA Cotton Agronomist, about a Cotton Planting Conditions Calculator from N. C. State. This new online tool will help and simplify the process for cotton producers to monitor forecasted planting conditions and recommendations for cotton planting. This calculator utilizes National Weather Service data and weather forecasts to calculate a 5-day predicted DD-60 forecast for the current day and the following 2 days at any given time the calculator is used.

I used the model for Moultrie on 4/15/2019 and below are the results.

Forecasted Cotton Planting Conditions

PLANTING DATE	5-DAY DD60 FORECAST	DD60 BASED PLANTING FORECAST	COMMENTS
April 15, 2019	30	Good	Avoid planting cotton if the low temperature is predicted to be below 50°F for either of the two nights following planting or predicted daily DD60's is near zero for the day of planting.
April 16, 2019	30	Good	Avoid planting cotton if the low temperature is predicted to be below 50°F for either of the two nights following planting or predicted daily DD60's is near zero for the day of planting.
April 17, 2019	30	Good	

Relationship Between 5-Day Predicted DD-60s and Planting Conditions	
Predicted DD-60 accumulation for five days following planting	Planting Conditions
10 or fewer	Poor
11 to 15	Marginal
16 to 25	Adequate
26 to 35	Good
36 to 45	Very Good
Greater than 45	Excellent

Note: DD-60s are capped at 10 for any one day

The model can be obtained at the website below.

[NCSTATE](#)

Thoughts on cotton weed control...

BURNDOWN: Palmer amaranth must not be emerged when planting, regardless of cotton cultivar planted.

Standard programs using Valor (before Palmer emergence), Direx, and Gramoxone + Direx are advised. Dicamba or 2,4-D would be beneficial for primrose, horseweed, and radish (2,4-D is much more effective on radish). All weeds and cover crops with the exception of cereal grains should be killed > 10 d before planting. No plant back interval exists for XtendiMax or Engenia in XtendFlex cotton; other cultivars may be planted 30 d after 1" of rainfall. No plant back interval exists for Enlist Duo or Enlist One in Enlist cotton; other cultivars may be planted 30 d after application, and 0.5" of irrigation between application and planting is beneficial.

Preemergence (PRE) applications: Include 2 active ingredients for better control, less crop injury, and less herbicide resistance development. Below are some choices of preemergence treatments.

- 1) Brake + Reflex 2) Brake + Warrant 3) Direx + Warrant 4) Reflex + Direx 5) Reflex + Warrant

HERBICIDE RATES ASSUME TIMELY SEQUENTIAL POST APPLICATIONS AND DIRECTED LAYBY

- 1) Brake contains fluridone; 1 pt/A is an effective rate in mix with other herbicides. Fluridone requires significant rain/irrigation to become fully active.
- 2) Warrant: For most soils, 32-40 oz/A is in order. Effective on most grasses, pigweeds and is essential for spiderwort.
- 3) Direx: For most soils the ideal rate is 10-20 oz/A; lower rates on sands or under intense irrigation. Avoid diuron PRE if it was applied within 14 d of planting as a burndown.
- 4) Reflex: For most soils, ideal rate is 10-12 oz/A when in these tank mixtures. Reflex mixtures are the most effective option for Palmer.

NOTE: Add paraquat if pigweed is emerged; a jar test is strongly advised if mixing with Brake.

Comparing summer annual forages

Summer annual forages can provide high yields of good quality forage during late spring and summer for both beef and dairy producers. Most of the warm season annual grasses emerge and establish quickly and are very drought tolerant. They can be used for grazing, hay or silage. Producers need to manage these species carefully in stressful conditions because they can accumulate levels of prussic acid and nitrates that can be toxic to livestock. There are many choices when it comes to summer annual forages, let's compare a few of them. [READ MORE](#)

Get prepped for hay season

By Carole Knight
Bulloch County CEA

As temperatures begin to creep up and spring starts to arrive, it is time to start thinking about the coming hay season. Timing is everything when it comes to high-quality hay production. A pre-harvest inspection of your hay making equipment can help make up valuable time and hopefully cut back on downtime later on. Here are some tips and things to check on before you make your first bale.

Sharpen up. A good cut on the grass reduces leaf loss and prevents stem damage, which can slow plant recovery. Sharpen or replace dull, damaged blades, sickle sections and cutting mechanisms. Also, check the conditioning rollers, adjust spacing, and roll timing as needed. Properly maintained conditioners will minimize drying time.

My buddy "Ted". Tedders and rakes may not be as mechanically complex, but they still need to be functioning effectively. Look for teeth that are misaligned or broken, replace or bend if possible. Setting the correct pick-up height will minimize leaf loss and reduce dirt uptake.

Don't bail on your baler. Perform a thorough inspection on your hay baler. This is the centerpiece of your hay making operation and if it is not functioning properly, things come to a halt. Check shafts, sprockets, pulleys and bearings for signs of wear. Inspect any belts and hoses for cracks. Properly tighten chains and belts. The bearings in the baling chamber often cause the most headache for round baler owners. Now is the time to check them, not when smoke is billowing out of the chamber. Check the rollers for any excessive movement or play. Look at tires and check their air pressure. It is a good practice to do a test run by warming up equipment to check for improperly working components.

The squeaky wheel gets the grease. Lubricate and grease any bearings and other moving parts that may have grown dry and stiff during the off-season.

Take inventory. Make sure you have plenty of twine, net wrap and or plastic. It also good to have some spare parts on hand to minimize downtime when something breaks. Adequate inventories can save you a trip to town or prevent a complete shutdown.

Benjamin Franklin said, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." So many factors contribute to a successful hay season. Don't let improperly prepped equipment be the factor that slows you down. With your equipment ready, you'll be prepped for a great hay season.

Thank you for your time,

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