Peanut Pointers - Entomology
Mark Abney
August 2026

The weather will play a key role in determining if we have major insect problems in peanut in August. Hot, dry weather will lead to more lesser cornstalk borer infestations, and we will start to see spider mite outbreaks in drought stressed fields. Likewise, we tend to see more peanut burrower bug injury in fields that experience dry conditions in the second half of the season. On the other hand, consistent rains will help keep these serious pest problems at bay.

Regardless of the weather, we will begin to see more three cornered alfalfa hoppers and velvetbean caterpillars in August. While I am not too concerned about three cornered alfalfa hoppers, growers should remain vigilant in their scouting for caterpillars. Velvetbean caterpillars are our most common “worm” pest, and they can completely defoliate peanut fields when left untreated. Many Georgia growers apply diflubenzuron (Dimilin) as a preventative against velvetbean caterpillar. This product has excellent activity on VBC, but it does little for soybean looper and other caterpillars that can be present this time of year. Beet armyworm infestations continue to be reported in peanut fields in Georgia. This pest can no longer be managed with products containing the active ingredient chlorantraniliprole (Coragen Evo, Besiege, etc.) due to insecticide resistance.

Growers in areas with a history of rootworm who have not applied Vertento (either at plant or through the pivot) in high-risk fields should consider making a chemigation treatment soon. The first generation of adult beetles has already come out of corn, and we are seeing pod injury in some of the fields we are monitoring.

August 2026 Peanut Pointers-Irrigation Update

Wesley Porter

Lately, it seems like we have either been feast or famine from the perspective of rainfall and weather conditions. It has been very hot during the last week(s) of July depending on your locaiton across the state. While there has been sporadic rainfall received across the state, there are areas that have went over two weeks without appreciable rainfall at the time I wrote this article, maybe that will have changed by the time you read it. I will add a sentence that portions of East Georgia that were very dry last week when I started writing this did receive weekend rain, and unfortunately there has been a lot of flooding across the northern regions of Georgia. However, other areas are getting just enough rainfall to maintain adequate soil moisture levels allowing growers to not require irrigation. I think it is important to note that this rain is much needed, but we are receiving it in heavier and more singular events, meaning it's all coming at once. While any addition to soil moisture is helpful, be sure to monitor the responses to some of these heavier rainfall events and how they refilled your profile, potentially ranoff, or in some cases caused erosion issues. When these heavy downpours happen, we need to keep in mind two things which impact how much of that rainfall we capture and are able to utilize for our crops. They are the water intake rate and water holding capacity of our soils. When we receive those 3" rainfall events we may only infiltrate or "bank" 0.75" or 1" of it according to rainfall intensity and soil conditions.

To give you an idea on where you stand for weekly peanut water requirements, please refer to the graph in figure 1 (the UGA Checkbook). Keep in mind that these requirements are for peanuts that were planted between April and June and that they are to be considered for both irrigation and rainfall in an average year. Localized data should be considered so that you best target the current water requirements. This graph should give you a good idea on where we stand for peanuts during early August according to approximate planting date windows. Unless you planted during early-April your peanuts are in the peak water usage period. This coupled with the hot and dry weather makes it difficult to stay ahead on irrigation alone. **DO NOT** fall behind on irrigation as the weather can just as easily become hot and dry over the month of September. If you fall behind with hot and dry weather it is difficult to catch up with irrigation only. I have observed multiple fields (both cotton and peanut) where we have soil moisture sensors installed being able to maintain shallow moisture but continually drying out at the deeper depths with no effect from irrigation. The crop is at the point in the season that it is utilizing moisture from the entire rooting profile and irrigation cannot refill the deeper depths. This is a tough situation to be in. Luckily, the recent rains helped to refill some of the deeper sensor depths and provided us with some reprieve from the dry conditions.

Another consideration is the shifts in variety acreage planted across the state longer maturity varieties such as GA-12Y will require several more weeks in the ground to reach peak maturity. Many times, once digging begins, we focus on harvest and not irrigation and peanuts that were planted later in the season or a varieties with longer maturity windows will need to be monitored closely for sufficient moisture due to the longer growing season. Shorting your peanuts two to four, and up to six weeks and beyond of irrigation if the fall becomes dry will negatively impact yield. It is critical to continue to manage irrigation until you make the decision on digging. For more information on the end of season peanut irrigation termination see the Extension Precision Ag and Irrigation Blog post at: Finalizing Peanut Irrigation | Extension Precision Ag and Irrigation.

For those of you using a soil moisture sensor or Irrigator Pro as your irrigation scheduling method, they will provide critical data that can aid in the prevention of both falling behind and losing deep moisture and over-irrigating. Most of the irrigated peanut crop has achieved canopy closure and that will help keep soil temperatures moderated and utilize irrigation and/or rainfall more efficiently.

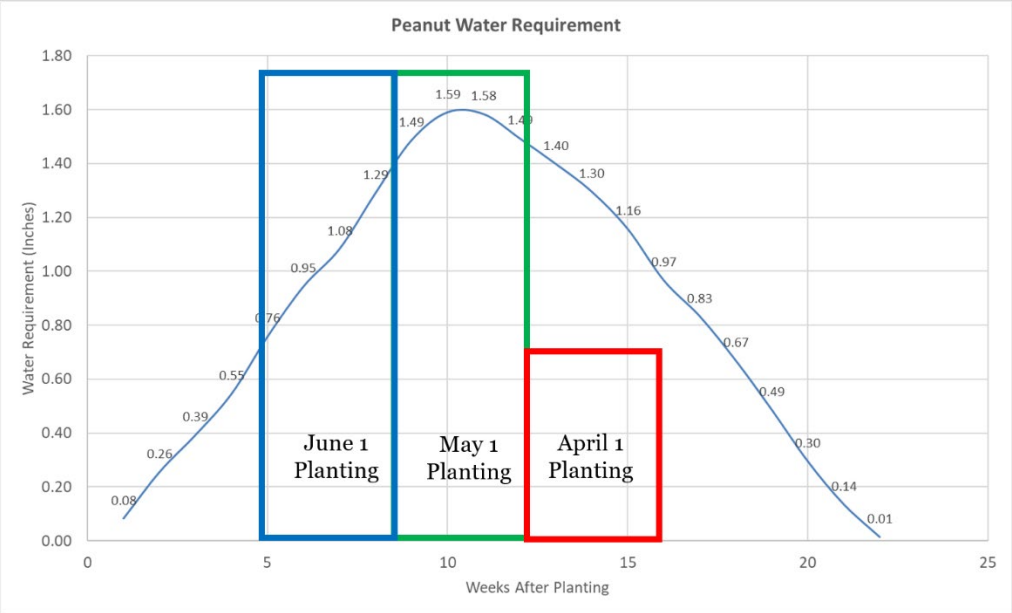

Figure 1. UGA Checkbook for Peanuts with the estimated August water requirements highlighted.

One point to keep in mind about using Irrigator Pro, especially if you're a new user and this is your first year running it, if you planted in the mid-April – mid-May window, you will hit the "R3 – Drying Out" growth stage during the month of August, if you haven't already. According to the crop model, this growth stage will occur at roughly 95 DAP. You will notice that the app will tell you to stop irrigating for about a week. This is to intentionally withhold water once a maximum fruit load occurs on the plant and to stress the peanut plants slightly so that it will stop flowering and allocate resources to maturing the peanuts that are already on the plant. So, if you see this occur and feel like your field is getting dry, don't panic its part of the model. This is how the soil moisture needs to be handled to ensure the plant reacts appropriately physiologically. However, I would make the statement to not let the field get too dry during this period. In many of our production fields waiting an entire week to apply irrigation could cause you to fall behind and incur drought stress if there is no rainfall forecasted or received. If you were already drying out and see deep moisture depleting rapidly you may want to still irrigate to prevent falling behind later in the season. If you had wet conditions during plant development, plant roots sometimes do not enter those deeper depths. It is important to maintain adequate moisture within the active root zone. If you question the accuracy of a soil moisture sensor the tried and tested method of using a 1-3-inch diameter auger and drilling down near the sensor while noting the moisture level can help validate the data being logged and transmitted.

Also, something to note, as we move later in the season is to prepare for harvest. If you have further questions about irrigation requirements, scheduling, harvest prep, or other related questions reach out to your local UGA County Extension Agent.

August Peanut Pointers

Scott Monfort

Current Crop Conditions

For more than three weeks, Georgia growers have experienced moderate to extreme temperatures, with only scattered rainfall. These conditions have taken a toll on many non-irrigated fields. Recent rains have helped, but many areas are still struggling. If hot, dry conditions continue for several more weeks, it may become necessary to assess each field's yield potential before investing additional resources. I remain hopeful that weather conditions will improve and that many affected areas will recover.

On a brighter note, irrigated fields look good and have good yield potential. Exceptions include fields that experienced stand establishment problems due to poor germination or flooding. Also, I emailed the link to this year's TSWV rating form last week. I hope you can help us again this year by rating 10 fields. The requested information includes planting date, variety, at-planting insecticide, tillage practices, and other relevant details. Please let me know if you experience any issues with the form.

Crop Maturity

Based on what I have seen so far, the early-planted crop appears to be on schedule. This means most varieties will likely reach maturity within 140-145 days after planting (DAP). I have heard some reports that DG 913 will mature 10 days earlier than Georgia-06G, or approximately 130-135 DAP. I am not yet convinced this will be the case. Please encourage growers to bring samples to you for a maturity check rather than automatically digging at 130-135 DAP. To be proactive, consider checking several DG 913 fields at approximately 120 DAP to see how they are progressing. Please share your observations with me. I have seen

Growing Degree-Day Units for Ty Ty, Midville, and Attapulgus

Growing degree-day heat units for peanuts planted on May 5 are more consistent across locations this year. These calculations are based on temperature alone and have not been adjusted for rainfall or irrigation. Accounting for rainfall or irrigation would lower the overall accumulated heat-unit totals. Accumulated heat units are somewhat higher in areas such as eastern Georgia, likely because those locations have experienced fewer breaks in the hot, dry conditions than southwestern Georgia. Keep in mind that accumulated heat units are not always reliable for predicting maturity in dryland or irrigated fields that have experienced significant stress. Please consider field conditions and crop stress when evaluating fields for maturity. **See maturity board and comments below on TIFNV-HG.**

Ty Ty

From May-5	To August-8	Total
2026	2026	2179
2025	2025	2241
2024	2024	2216
2023	2023	2036
56 <= Temp <= 94 °F		

Midville

From May-5	To August-8	Total
2026	2026	2164
2025	2025	2150
2024	2024	2195
2023	2023	1948
56 <= Temp <= 94 °F		

Attapulgus

From May-5	To August-8	Total
2026	2026	2137
2025	2025	2161
2024	2024	2205
2023	2023	2046
56 <= Temp <= 94 °F		

130 DAP TifNV-HG

I received this earlier in the week. Based on this profile I would say 17-21 days to dig. It would be good to check again but it has a lot of whites and orange pods that need mature out more.