



this issue

Peanut Update **P.1**



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## Peanut Update

Well it has definitely been a tough peanut year thus far in Texas. The hot, dry weather had decreased peanut development and has decimated pod development in many fields. One thing we have noticed is where we have increased the speed of the pivot it has appeared to help bloom set and pod development.

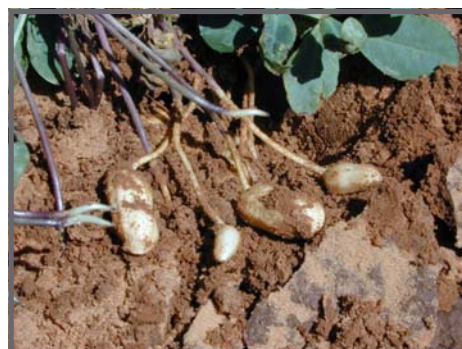
What growers are doing is applying 0.75 inches of water every 3-4 days versus applying 1.5 inches in 7-10 days for instance. What I think is happening is we are keeping



the canopy wetter at night and early morning for more days during the week. This in turn has increased the humidity in the canopy more often which has enhanced pollination of the blooms and subsequent peg and pod development. If you still do not have a good pod set than I would suggest trying this for the next couple of weeks.

While bloom, peg, and pod development have not been anywhere what we would like, if there is a silver lining, only 15-20% of the blooms develop into a mature pod in any given cropping season. In addition, the peanut plant has the ability to put on a large number of blooms in a short period under improved environmental conditions. Therefore, if we can set some blooms and develop pods we can still possibly make an acceptable yield. In regards to peanut plant development the petals of the bloom unfold in the early morning hour and are generally fertilized within 3 to 6 hours. The developing peg should reach the ground in 10-14 days after pollination. This requires that we also keep the ground moist so that

the peg can enter the soil and develop into a mature pod. Keeping the soil wet will also help to keep the surface cool so that the developing peg is not burned off. While the pod will reach full size in 3-4 weeks the developing kernel will require 10-12 weeks to reach full size. Therefore, we are reaching the final stages of the season where we can develop a full pod. However, with some help from Mother Nature we hopefully can continue to mature this crop out through the end of October. However, that means we are reaching the last week or two of potentially effective bloom period. After this period I would slow the pivot down and increase my water amount per set. Increasing humidity after this period will not likely benefit yield. On a final note if we can make a partial crop, this year's price will likely make up for lower yields. So while in past years a 2000-3000 pound/acre crop would likely not be economical to produce, it will be worth more this year. As mentioned previously hopefully we will have an open fall and late frost to mature this crop to the end. If you have any questions please contact me at 940.552.9941 ext. 233 or [taughman@tamu.edu](mailto:taughman@tamu.edu).





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