



this issue

PEANUT PROGRESS UPDATE

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Well this has been quite a year to say the least. While most if not all of us are ready to see this year end there, unfortunately is still some time left before we can call it good. I think the two biggest questions left are when to turn the water off and when to dig this year's peanut crop.

We conducted studies in 2005 and 2006 at the Ag-Cares facility in Lamesa looking at irrigation termination timings. These studies were conducted on both Spanish and Runner market-types. Termination timings included September 1, September 15, and September 30. In those two years we did not see a lot of differences with Spanish peanut planted in late April. However, yield reductions averaged approximately 300 lb/A when comparing the September 15 to the September 30 termination timing with Runner peanut. There are two things to consider with this research first that cutting terminating irrigation two early will reduce yields with Runner peanut, secondly this year's

crop is later than the 2005 or 2006 crop. Therefore, depending on when most of your crop was set and what stage they are currently at it may be advisable to water this year's crop into the first part of October if possible.

The second question is when to dig and harvest this year's crop. We conducted digger timing studies on Valencia and Virginia market-type peanut during the 2007-2009 growing season.

Digger timings for Valencia ranged from 114 to 135 days after planting. In 2007, the last digging date was at 128 which also was our highest yield. In 2009, digging dates of 121 and 135 were essentially equal. Interestingly enough we did have lower yields at the 128 days after planting timing in 2008 and 2009.



Todd Baughman,
State Peanut
Agronomist



“Producers should be proactive and closely monitoring fields, destroying suspicious weeds as soon as possible.”

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However, in both years we had a significant rainfall event after digging but prior to harvest. Looking at the one year we did leave the Valencia's to 142 days after planting appeared to hurt yields. Therefore, we probably need to get them out some time in the 130 days after planting time frame.

Digger timings for Virginia ranged from 140 to 168 days after planting. In 2007, Virginia yield was highest with the last two digging dates of 161 and 168 days after planting. We had no difference in yield in 2008 or 2009 between any of the digging dates. We did have some digging dates in 2008 and 2009 that were numerically lower,

however, just like the Valencia studies this occurred when we had dug the peanuts and then had a significant rainfall prior to thrashing the peanuts. In addition, in no year did the 168 days after planting digging timing have the lowest yield.

So what does all this information tell us? First even in a good year we can likely leave peanuts (even Valencia and Virginia) in the ground longer than we have generally considered acceptable. Just like Runners even Virginia and Valencia can continue to gain yield with time (in 2 of the three years grades were not affected by digger timing with either market-type either).

Unfortunately, both this year and this crop have been completely different (and I hope stays that way) than any other crop we have ever dealt with. Therefore, we don't really have anything to base irrigation termination or digging timing on. However, we do know 2 things: 1) early termination timing and digging peanuts early can reduce yield and grade (in some cases); and 2) this crop is later than any crop that I have experienced in my years as peanut specialist in Texas. Therefore, I think we need to consider our first freeze date, our number of acres, and our harvest capacity (how much equipment and how long will it take us to dig and harvest this crop



under normal weather in a timely fashion). I would then give myself a little leeway for weather and equipment issues to make sure that we don't let a freeze be our next issue with this crop. With that said I think we do want to try to give this crop as much time to mature as possible.

Finally, on a last note for those of you that have not heard I have accepted a job with Oklahoma State University as the Program Support Leader for the Institute of Agricultural Biosciences located in Ardmore. These past 15 years

working in Texas and 9+ years serving as the State Peanut Specialist have been a lot of fun. I want to thank you for your perplexing questions and thoughtful guidance all these years. I especially want to thank each of you for the friendships that you have provided me over all these years. You the producers and all those that support agriculture in this region are what have made this job a great job to have. Good luck to all of you and your families both today and in the future.

As always if you have any questions feel free to give me a shout. My new email address will be todd.baughman@okstate.edu.

Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness.

Letter from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington (1787)

If you have any questions related to peanut diseases or any other peanut production issues contact

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