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CURRENT PEANUT SITUATION

PEANUT PROGRESS

this issue

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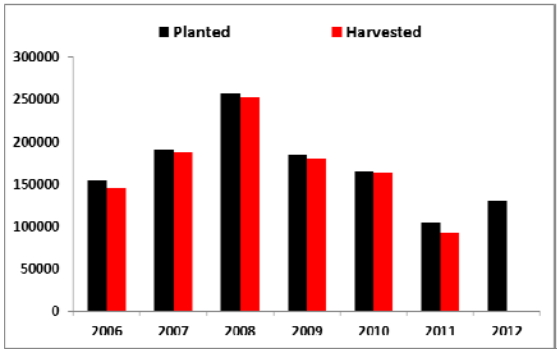
Current Peanut Situation *by Jason Woodward*



Texas peanut acreage from 2006 to 2012, USDA-NASS

Estimates released by the USDA-NASS on July 23 indicate that approximately 130,000 acres were planted to peanut in Texas. This represents a 23.8% increase in acres compared to 2011, but is well below the total acres planted to peanut since 2006. Overall, there was an increase in peanut acres with current estimates being 1.53 million acres planted in the U.S. The majority of acres were planted in the southeast with Georgia, Alabama and Florida acres estimated at 710,000, 190,000 and 190,000, respectively. This increase in acres is due to relatively lower supply which led to higher peanut prices and lower prices for competing crops, such as cotton.

When considering condition, 90% of this year's crop is rated as fair to good. The majority of the U.S. peanut crop (96%) is considered to be in fair to excellent condition. The Texas crop continues to progress with 65% of the crop setting pegs, which is considerably better than where we were at this time last year. In looking at fields on the High Plains, I am extremely pleased with the continuous flowering, pegging and pod development we are seeing. I attribute this to good growing conditions early and the ability to maintain irrigation. More recently, the moderation of temperatures into the lower to mid-90's and presence of some humidity has benefited the crop.

Rainfall across much of the peanut producing areas of Texas has been sporadic, providing little if any relief for irrigation. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook projects that the drought will persist or intensify through Oct. 31 for much of the state; therefore, we need to remain diligent when it comes to irrigation in preparing for the remainder of the

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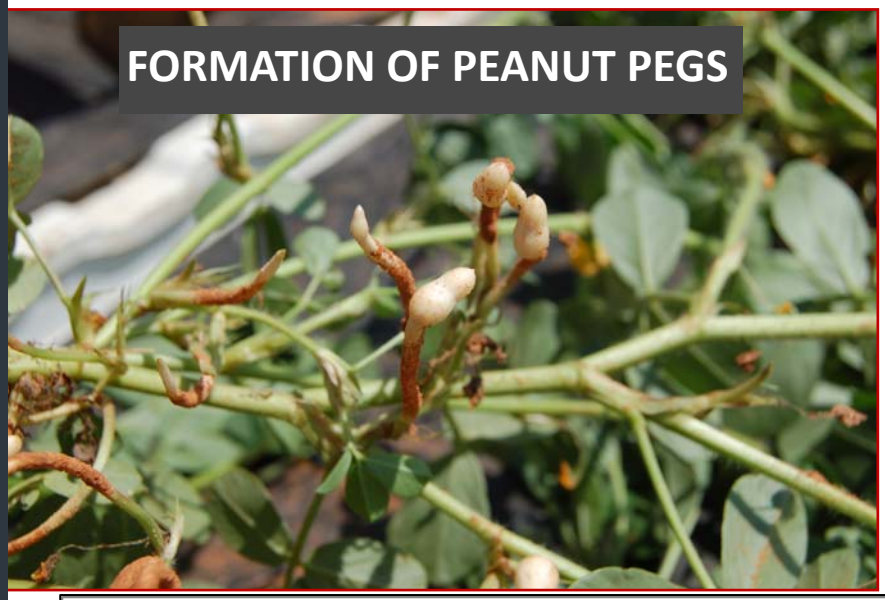
Current Peanut Situation *(cont.)*

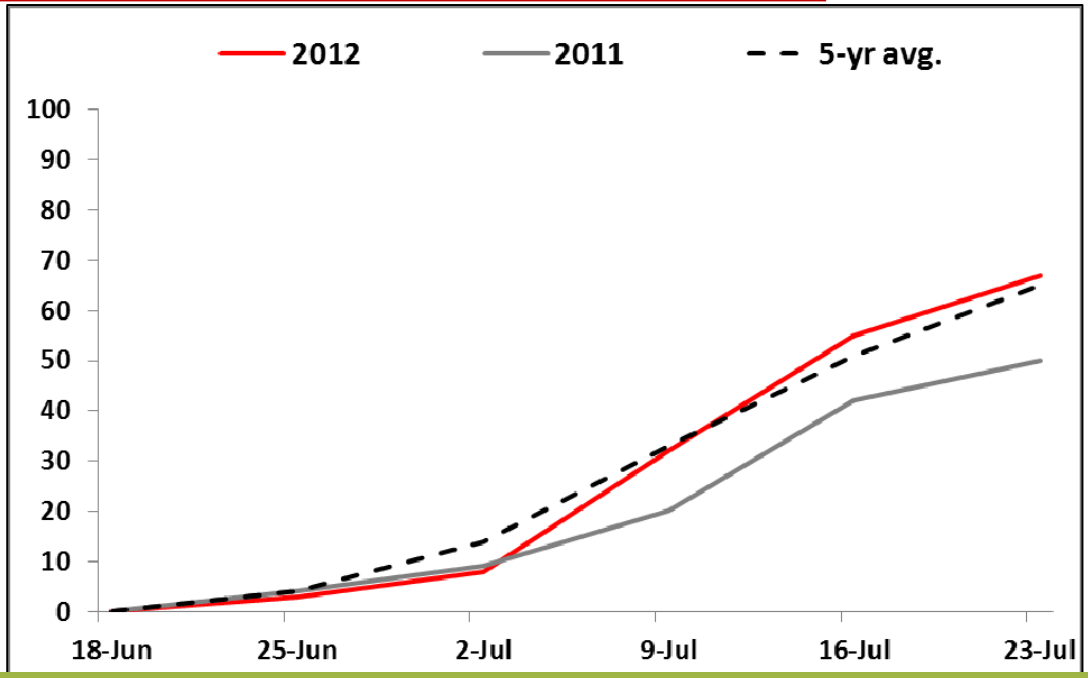
growing season. The effect of moisture stress on pod yield is greatest from 65 to 100 days after planting. Water requirements begin to decline as pods mature; however, getting behind on irrigation within the season can negatively affect pod set, resulting in a split crop that will impact maturity and delay harvest.

Peanut crop condition July 23, 2012, USDA-NASS.

State	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
AL	0	3	29	66	2
FL	0	0	15	70	15
GA	0	5	29	50	16
NC	0	3	42	46	9
OK	0	5	26	69	0
SC	1	3	30	60	6
TX	0	6	41	49	4
VA	0	0	17	75	8
Avg.	0	4	29	56	11
2011	6	13	41	34	6



The Texas crop continues to progress with 65% of the crop setting pegs



Texas peanut crop update—estimated % of crop pegging, USDA-NASS

Pod damage caused by southern corn root worm

In addition, to the direct feeding injury, damage to pods provides a point of entry for other organisms.

Peanut Insect Pest Update *by Manda Anderson*

Currently, southern corn root worm is the pest that most people are concerned about. The adult, which is lime green and ¼ inch long with several black dots on its wings, is known as the spotted cucumber beetle. Treatment should not be based on the presence of adults. The adults may be feeding in the foliage, but this is no guarantee that they are laying eggs. The adult lays eggs on or slightly below the soil surface. The larvae that hatch spend their life underground.

The larvae are creamy white with a brown head and dark plate on the top side of the last segment, and six tiny brownish legs. Mature larvae are about half-inch long. Larvae feed on plant roots, pegs, and pods. The damage to a pod can be recognized by the pit caused during feeding. The feeding hole tapers, as though the pod has been poked with a pencil. In addition, to the direct feeding injury, damage to pods provides a point of entry for other organisms. Lorsban 15G is labeled for southern corn root worm, however, it is generally considered a preventative treatment. Once the larvae begin feeding, insecticide treatment is fairly ineffective. There is no rescue treatment for corn root worm.

Foliage feeding pest, such as bollworms, fall armyworms, yellow-striped armyworms, and beet armyworms will likely be our next pest of concern.

Right now we are picking worms ranging from day old to 12 days old. Populations are well below economic thresholds. As the next generation starts to hit the peanut crop, we may see an explosion in populations.

Southern Corn Root Rot Larve

Worms in peanuts

However, the peanut plant can tolerate foliage loss. Make inspections

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Peanut Insect Pest Update *(cont.)*

Lesser cornstalk bore larvae

Symptoms of Pythium pod rot

before applying insecticides to determine if economically damaging numbers are present. If chemical control measures become necessary, apply when worms are small. Spanish and Valencia peanuts can tolerate approximately 6 to 8 medium-to-large worms per foot of row before significant yield losses occur. Runners and Virginias have more foliage area and can tolerate 10 to 12 worms per foot of row. After insecticides are applied be sure to continually monitor the field for secondary pests such as spider mites.

Lesser Cornstalk borer is a small bluish-green slender larva with brown stripes that lives beneath the soil surface in silken tubes. Worms injure mature plants by feeding on pegs, pods, stems, and roots.

Pegs are cut off below the ground surface and developing nuts are hollowed out. Stems and roots are scarred and may be girdled. The lesser cornstalk borer is usually more harmful to peanuts grown during drought years.

Prolonged rainfall and irrigation contribute to larval mortality. Proper timing and adequate water applied at each irrigation may reduce larval populations. Inspect fields at least weekly to determine when to treat for lesser cornstalk borer. In this way, insecticide applications can be timed precisely and unnecessary treatments avoided. Yield or quality losses do not occur until certaininfestation levels are reached. Treat peanuts when 15% are infested after initial pegging.

wireworm

Wireworms are the immature stage of click beetles. Wireworms feed below the soil surface and normally bore all the way through the kernel and may enter the pod to continue feeding. Feeding holes look similar to southern corn root worm, however, wireworm holes tend to be larger. Wireworm problems tend to be higher in fields following grain crops. Preventative treatments are the most

Peanut disease update by Jason Woodward

As the year's peanut crop continues to develop, scouting should be conducted to protect the developing pegs and pods. I have received several samples over the past week exhibiting symptoms of pod rot. This disease is characterized by the dark rotting that occurs from pods becoming infected by various fungi. The two most prevalent causal agents associated with pod rot are *Pythium* spp. and *Rhizoctonia solani*. The two diseases look similar in the field and may also occur in concert. However, there are subtle differences that can be used to help in diagnosis. If it is not possible to diagnose the cause of pod rot in the field, symptomatic pods can be placed in a plastic bag containing a moist paper towel. Incubate at room temperature overnight, and then examine

the pods. In general, *Pythium* spp. will have a distinct white cottony growth and infected pods will appear water-soaked and greasy; whereas, *R. solani* will appear as brown fungal growth and pods will be relatively dry. Applications of fungicides for pod rot control should be made 60-75 days after planting with subsequent applications made approximately 30 days later. Banding applications over the center of the row can be done to improve deposition of fungicides, such as Abound and Ridomil, into the lower canopy. Furthermore, increasing the carrier volume (20 gallons per acre minimum) will help with fungicide deposition as well.

Development of other diseases, such as Sclerotinia blight, southern blight and leaf spot also occur once canopy closure (or lapping of the row middles) is achieved. Sclerotnia blight, caused by the soilborne fungus *Sclerotinia minor* or. *S. sclerotium*, can be identified by a yellowing and/or wilting of lateral branches. A closer examination of the canopy at the soil line will reveal a cottony, white, moldy growth; which is most commonly observed early in the morning. As the disease progresses, infected stems become bleached and shredded. Small, black, irregular-shaped structures (sclerotia), which serve as over-wintering structures, may be produced on or within infected tissues. Currently, there are only two fungicides (Omega and Endura) used for Sclerotinia blight management; however, studies are currently underway to evaluate newer products.

Another disease, southern blight (caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii*) may develop under the warm, moist conditions found within the lower plant canopy of well irrigated fields. Southern blight can also occur in other crops including peppers and watermelon. Symptoms of this disease are similar to Sclerotinia blight; however, the sclerotia of this fungus, which readily form on diseased tissue, are spherical in shape and have a brown to bronze color. Numerous fungicides are labeled for use against southern blight; however, Abound, Artisan, Convoy, Folicur (as well as other tebuconazole formulations) and Provost are most commonly used.

Close attention to foliar diseases, predominantly early and late leaf spot, should be paid in fields planted to Valencia and Spanish market-types. Despite dry conditions the potential for leaf spot to develop may exist as a result of dense growth, high humidity, heavy irrigation or dew which allows moisture to accumulate on the foliage in the lower canopy. Peanuts can tolerate substantial levels of leaf spot; however, potential yield loss can occur if pegs or stems become infected. If fungicide applications are warranted, products containing chlorothalonil, such as Bravo, Echo and Equus can be used preventatively; whereas, Headline can be applied curatively. A complete list of fungicides labeled for use in peanut can be found at http://agrilife.org/peanut/files/2011/10/D_peanut_pdfs_productionguide07_3.pdf.

Early leaf spot in the lower canopy

Close attention to foliar diseases, predominantly early and late leaf spot, should be paid in fields planted to Valencia and Spanish market-types.

Appearance of Sclerotium rolfsii, causal agent of Southern blight

This newsletter is for you the producers and other members of the peanut industry. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions the newsletter please contact

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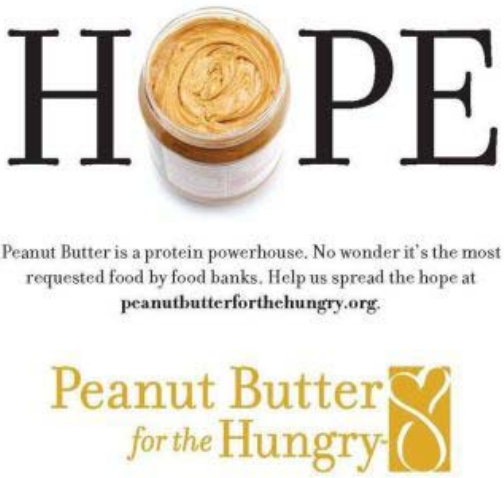
WE ARE ON THE WEB:

http://peanut.tamu.edu



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