



Todd Baughman

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Peanut Harvest Consideration**
- **South Texas Disease Update**

Peanut Harvest Consideration

Todd Baughman – Extension Peanut Specialist

With harvest upon us, determining when to dig peanut in Texas is not always an easy process. Often times under low disease pressure and good growing conditions runner peanut will continue to increase in yield and grade the longer we allow them to grow. However, in Texas we also realize that the potential for freeze damage can offset any yield or grade increase. Growers must always determine how effectively we

can dig and harvest peanut prior to annual freezing temperatures which we know will be coming in November. This year's crop appears to be behind in maturity compared to



recent crops. The hot, dry weather this summer combined with cool, cloudy

weather in September has not been ideal for producing an early maturing crop. One thing that we may want to watch more closely this year is the weather forecast. If maximum air temperature is going to exceed 85° F we may want to hold off digging for a few days if possible. This will benefit us in two ways: 1) air temperatures this warm should help mature the crop, and 2) immature kernels exposed to high heat can potentially develop quality issues. While we have not seen a benefit to sandwich digging in regards to quality in recent

South Texas Disease Update

Mark Black – Extension Plant Pathologist—Uvalde

In South Texas, most peanut fields received very little rainfall last winter, through the spring, and into early summer. This dry

weather apparently contributed to the very low spotted wilt disease incidence in the 2008 crop, along with use of varieties with vegetation management, partial resistance, high seeding rates, and a narrow planting window. *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV)

causes spotted wilt disease, and is vectored by two thrips species. Tobacco thrips (*Frankliniella fusca*) thrives at high temperatures and is responsible for most virus movement in South Texas. Tobacco thrips was rarely found in past surveys in West

Peanut Harvest Consideration - Cont.

research, this may still be an option for producers who may be considering digging earlier. This should help reduce the amount of heat immature pods are exposed to and therefore hopefully reduce any quality issues. Finally, while we are discussing high temperatures we will also want to

consider potential issues with freezing temperatures as well. High moisture, immature peanut will be more susceptible to cold temperature. In these cases, even air temperatures that does not reach 32 ° F may result in freeze damage. The best thing we can do is continue to keep an

eye on the weather forecast, do our best to adjust management decisions based on these forecast, and finally hope that mother nature helps us out along the way. If you have any additional questions give us a call @ 940.552.9941 ext. 233 or e - m a i l a t TBAughma@ag.tamu.edu

South Texas Disease Update - Cont.



Mark Black

Texas. Western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) is adapted to lower temperatures and is probably a less efficient vector in peanut fields. South Texas growers should continually

be wary of spotted wilt and continue to use multiple control strategies because fall/winter/spring rains can set up conditions for future epidemics.

Minor element deficiency symptoms are more prevalent than in previous seasons. Low soil moisture low in the profile may be limiting root efficiency for minor element uptake. Unless plants are obviously stunted, yield and grade are usually not reduced.

Growers encountered southern blight (caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii*) even in the dry weather, because this fungal pathogen is favored by high temperatures and periodic stress inter-



Spotted Wilt

rupted by irrigation/rain. Crop rotation to starve out the fungus in soil, varieties with partial resistance, and fungicide protection are key strategies for minimizing losses from southern blight. A few fungicides can contribute to management of southern blight and/or leafspots and rust diseases, but

field history and current scouting reports are essential information when deploying these products. Timing of the fungicide application and subsequent irrigation affects relocation of the fungicide from foliage to the crown and soil.

Rains occurred from late July through August in South Texas, allowing some rust and leafspot diseases to show up. Growers should monitor fields regularly, especially near pivot points and in low spots, for foliar diseases. Additional fungicide applications may be necessary to prevent extensive defoliation before the crop matures. If you have any additional questions give us a call @ 830.279.9151 or e - m a i l : m-black@tamu.edu



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