

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Current Crop Condition Update
- Weed Control Issues and Update
- Peanut Disease Awareness

## Current Crop Condition Update

*Jodd Baughman –  
Extension Peanut  
Agronomist*

Looking at the entire U.S. peanut crop, progress (81% pegging) is slightly behind the 5 year average (88%). This lack of progress is highlighted in the Southeast with Alabama = 17%, Florida = 13%, and Georgia = 7% behind. All other states are tracking close to the 5 year trend. Unlike other parts of the country South Texas continues to be wet. In fact, San Antonio experienced its wettest January-July period on record (37.83-inch, 202% of normal).

While recent scattered rains have provided varying degrees of drought relief in the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States, year-to



**Peanut**

-date rainfall totals for the southeastern U.S. remain low. Atlanta, GA for example is currently 14.17 inches behind which is the fifth highest deficit on record. The crop continues

to progress in Texas with 82% of the crop rated good to excellent, and only 1% rated poor to very poor. This contrast with other parts of the U.S. ranging from 5 to 29% rated poor to very poor (AL = 29%, FL = 5%, GA = 15%, NC = 9%) and 42 to 56% rated good to excellent (AL = 42%, FL = 55%, GA = 45%, NC = 56%). Insects continue to be an a problem for the Southeast in some areas, and I would suspect aflatoxin is a concern especially if the drought persist or worsens. We will want to continue to keep an eye on this years crop to make sure we do not short the crop on water or other inputs. There could be po-

## Weed Control Issues and Update

*James Grichar –  
Research Scientist.*

With all the rainfall that we have had in South Texas, weeds have and will continue to be a problem throughout the growing

season. Wild mustard and coffee senna, which usually are not a concern in South Texas area, have been a problem for a few growers. Palmer amaranth, smellmelon, and horse purslane have also caused concern with some

growers. Wild mustard can be controlled with many of the herbicides commonly used for broadleaf weed control in peanut. Cobra and Cadre have provided excellent control of wild mustard. Coffee senna can be controlled with Cadre. If

## Current Crop Condition Update - Continued

tential for increased pricing opportunities which will benefit us even more with higher yields. Crop progress reports and other peanut information

can be found at the Texas A&M Peanut Website located at <http://peanut.tamu.edu>. If you have any concerns or questions in regards to

peanut production management call Todd Baughman @ 940-552-9941 ext. 233.



**James Grichar -  
Research Scientist**

***“Remember with any postemergence herbicide, a crop oil concentrate or non-ionic surfactant needs to be added to improve weed control.”***

**Palmer  
amaranth  
(Pigweed,  
care-  
lessweed)**



## Weed Control Issues and Update - Continued

a grower is concerned with a rotational crop when using Cadre, then Basagran at 1 qt/A will provide good control of coffee senna.

Questions have been raised about using Cobra for broadleaf weed control and in our studies Cobra has done an excellent job of controlling Palmer amaranth, horse purslane, and smellmelon. Cobra has been more consistent on horse purslane than Ultra Blazer. None of the other broadleaf herbicides are effective against horse purslane. In fact, Cadre, Pursuit, or 2,4-DB will hardly touch horse purslane. Smellmelon, which is characterized by wide angled but not lobed leaves and an ellipsoid fruit which turns golden-

yellow when ripe, has increased in severity in the South Texas area. This weed can produce 300-400 seed per melon so it can become a major problem in just a few

years if the plant is allowed to grow and produce fruit. Cobra, Ultra Blazer, and 2,4-DB applied postemergence will control smellmelon but will not provide any residual control. Therefore, after each irrigation or rainfall event a new flush of smellmelon may develop and require re-treatment. Cadre and Pursuit applied postemergence will effectively control smellmelon and provide residual control as well.

We continue to be concerned about Palmer amaranth resistance to Cadre; therefore, if any Palmer amaranth has not been controlled when using Cadre, there is a possibility that resistance may be an issue. Of course this may not be the reason for lack of control. Other causes of poor control may include improper sprayer calibration, lack of spray coverage, and improper herbicide use rate.

Yellow and purple nutsedge are capable of reproducing in high num-

bers under these wet conditions. Therefore Cadre or Pursuit may not provide full-season control of the nutsedge species. Basagran may need to be used to control any late-season flushes of yellow nutsedge. Nutsedge is a poor competitor; therefore, if the peanut plants are actively growing they may provide enough shade to reduce the vigor of nutsedge. We have the best control of nutsedge when Cadre was applied at 1/2X rate and followed 3 to 4 weeks later by another 1/2X rate. This has provided better control than one application at the full rate. However, the added costs of repeat trips through a field and the time required are a concern. Remember with any postemergence herbicide, a crop oil concentrate or non-ionic surfactant needs to be added to improve weed control. If you have questions in regards to peanut weed control contact James Grichar @ 361-358-6390

# Peanut Disease Awareness

**Mark Black –  
Extension Plant  
Pathologist.**

The season to date has been characterized by frequent rains and lower than normal temperatures. Wet fields since mid-May caused some serious delays in planting, with some planting after the middle of July. Late planted fields are vulnerable to slowing maturity and frost/freezing injury in November. Rains have caused planting bed erosion and an increase in seedling diseases. Holding seed stock for several weeks after application of seed-treatment fungicides may have contributed to lower seed quality in some cases. Poorly drained areas of fields are noticeably yellow.

Spotted wilt has been nearly zero in fields I've checked, and others have made similar observations in other fields. Thrips injury to peanut leaves is lower than usual. Abundant weed growth during the continuously wet weather has apparently provided continuous habitats suitable for thrips feeding and reproduction. Heavy rainfall events may have temporarily reduced thrips populations and/or favored beneficials. As a peanut plant ages, initial TSWV

infection has less and less negative effect on pod formation. Therefore, on-time planted fields may escape severe spotted wilt this season. Late planted fields are still vulnerable if thrips begin to move from weeds to peanuts. If and when dry weather and high temperatures occur this season in South Texas, weeds will mature and dry down and favor thrips migrations into peanut fields. If spotted wilt does escalate in August and then the region receives late season rains in October, pockets of infected plants could rapidly yellow and decline as digging date approaches. Overall, the region uses peanut varieties with good levels of field resistance, so the risk of losses from spotted wilt is much less than in the 80s and 90s.

Risk of rust, early leaf spot, and late leaf spot is very high



**Leaf Spot**

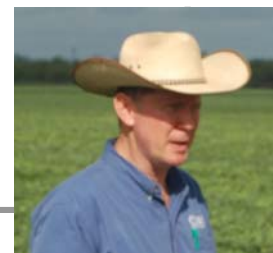
due to ideal temperatures, high relative humidity, frequent long leaf wetness periods, and weathering of fungicide applications. Fungicide

applications should begin earlier and be more frequent than in dryer seasons.

Southern blight is favored by high moisture and warm weather, so fungicide programs should address this problem along with foliar diseases. Sclerotinia blight is favored by wet conditions and cool weather when middles have lapped and canopies are dense. Late planted fields are particularly vulnerable this year, and scouting should be thorough in fields with a history, as well as nearby fields. This fungus may have previously been moved from field to field on equipment, and perhaps by birds that forage in fields.

The long-term survival structure is a seed-like sclerotium in the soil. The Sclerotinia minor fungus can also be seed borne if seed production fields were/are infested. Photos of peanut diseases in Texas are available on the internet at: <http://peanut.tamu.edu/pdfs/Peanut%20Disease%20Atlas.pdf>. Also a list of labeled fungicides is posted at: <http://uvalde.tamu.edu/STAFF/Black/PDNCR06Text.htm>. If you have additional questions in regards to peanut disease contact Mark Black @ 830-278-9151 ext. 141.

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**Mark Black - Extension  
Plant Pathologist**



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