

# Peanut Progress with Pitt County Peanut Farmers

July 9, 2014



Pitt County Center

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## BEGINNING SPRAY PROGRAMS

*The month of July means that Pitt County peanut growers will begin to develop strategies to control foliar and soil-borne disease. This first issue of "Peanut Progress for Pitt County Peanut Growers" provides information on spraying and other pertinent topics.*

### Peanut Sprays Begin at R3

With the exception of Bailey, all peanut varieties should receive the first fungicide application at the very early pod stage known as "R3". This usually occurs in early July. After the first spray, fungicides should be applied according to the leaf spot advisory. The first spray is usually Bravo unless this spray is delayed. If delayed, a mixture of Tilt plus Bravo is recommended.



The R3 stage begins about July 4th.

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### Managing Bailey for Disease

The general recommendation for the variety, Bailey is to begin spraying two weeks after the R3 stage. Due to its high disease resistance, growers can usually reduce the total number of sprays applied by one throughout the season. Last year, it was estimated that farmers sprayed an average of 4 times.

Bailey has been shown to perform well with one less fungicide application and Dr. Barbara Shew has stated that a spray program for Bailey could begin with a southern stem rot fungicide.

Field history is very important when choosing a fungicide spray program. Peanut fields in rotation with soybeans, tobacco, or vegetables are at a higher risk of southern stem rot.

## Spray Advisory Will Begin July 14

Our peanut spray advisory hotline will begin operation on Monday, July 14 and can be heard by calling 902-1720. This hotline is updated at least three times per week and provides the latest recommendations on spraying for leaf spot and Sclerotinia blight. Advisories are also posted on line at <http://ncsupeanut.blogspot.com/>.

The information provided in this advisory is obtained from the Kinston, Rocky Mount, and Williamston weather stations. Sclerotinia blight advisories are given for fields that have rows within 6 inches of closing and fields with rows that have closed.

Research has shown that making spraying decisions based on an advisory can eliminate 1-2 sprays per season. Advisory programs are especially useful during hot, dry weather and have also been shown to reduce spidermites in peanuts.

## The Second Spray Choice

All peanut spray programs are based on the assumption that all fields can have Southern stem rot. Therefore, all varieties (except Bailey) should receive at least two applications of fungicides in a program through the end of August.



Bailey represented 56% of samples pod blasted in Pitt in 2013.



***Fields with heavy vine growth and high moisture are most prone to stem rot.***

Growers who are on their second or third spray should be using Abound (at least 12 oz/a), Headline (15 oz/a), or Provost (8-10 oz /a). Convoy (16 oz/a) or tebuconazole (7.2 oz/a) can be used, but must be mixed with a foliar fungicide such as Bravo or a low rate of Headline (6-9 ounces). Group 11 fungicides (Headline, Abound, or Evito) can only be applied twice in a 5-spray program. Provost is a good choice for the second fungicide application when a peanut field has a history of CBR.

## Scouting for Sclerotinia Blight

Regardless of the advisory, scouting for Sclerotinia blight should begin now. When scouting, early Sclerotinia infections are often found away from the crown of the plant. The fluffy, white fungus is easiest to see early in the morning or after a rain. Be sure to look inside of the canopy to spot these infections. Infected stems develop a bleached appearance as the disease progresses. One difference between Sclerotinia blight and Southern stem rot is the fact that Southern stem rot usually starts closer to the crown of the plant.

Scouting tip: Sclerotinia blight tends to be worse on sandier soils versus heavier soil types. This fungus tends to be white and fluffy and located on the lateral branches of the plant. The fruiting structures of

this disease resemble "rat droppings" on the stems and infected stems will often shred when examined.

Omega and Endura are recommended for Sclerotinia blight control. With these products, use ample water during application. These products offer no leaf spot protection so one will have to be added. Treatment should begin at a 1% outbreak and are good for 3-4 weeks.



*Sclerotinia blight is easiest seen during humid mornings or after a rain.*

## Treating for Southern Corn Rootworms?

Refer to page 107 of the *2014 Peanut Information Guide* to decide!

Last fall, 17% of the samples submitted during our peanut maturity workshops had been treated to prevent southern corn rootworm. Of this total number (127), 12% showed damage from this insect. It should be noted that 93% of the damaged samples **DID NOT** receive treatment for this insect.

Although more damage was expected from southern corn rootworm than was seen last year, the risk index on page 107 of the *2014 Peanut Information Guide* remains the best tool to use when deciding whether to treat.

## Apogee for Vine Control

Since many fields will lap middles within the next 2 weeks, now is a good time to review the recommendations concerning Apogee. Apogee is a growth regulator that reduces internode elongation in peanuts.

Apogee can increase yields in some situations but its main benefits believed to be improved row visibility and increased pod retention. For growers who tend to dig late in order to target the most mature and highest grading pods, Apogee offers the most benefit. Apogee is recommended for use when 50% of rows are closed and two applications, two to three weeks apart, are generally needed.

Dr. David Jordan says that being timely with the first application and using nitrogen or ammonium sulfate is critical with Apogee. Adding crop oil concentrate is also helpful in receiving the best results. If other products are to be added, make sure that you check the label for adjuvant recommendations.

## New Tax Exempt Numbers Required

The NC Department of Revenue (NCDR) is requiring that all farmers complete a new form in order to obtain a new exemption certificate number for qualified purchases. The new form is E-595QF and can be downloaded from the NC Department of Revenue web site. Farmers can use their old numbers when making purchases up until October 1, 2014. The form link is <http://www.dornc.com/downloads/sales.html>.

A "qualifying farmer" is a farmer who has an annual gross income for the preceding income tax year of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more from farming operations or who has an average annual gross income for the three preceding income tax years of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more from farming operations. A qualifying farmer includes a dairy operator, a poultry farmer, an egg producer, a livestock farmer, a farmer of crops, and a farmer of an aquatic species, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 106-758.

When completing E-595QF, enter the annual gross income for the preceding income tax year from farming operations or the average annual gross income for the three preceding income tax years from farming operations. Provide gross income documentation (tax returns) with this application in order for NCDR to substantiate annual or average gross income from farming operations. Failure to attach documentation will delay processing of the application for a qualifying farmer exemption certificate number. Click here to download [form 595qf.pdf](#).

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In an effort to be more efficient, copies of our newsletters are now being sent to our producers electronically. For the time being, paper copies are also being

sent to those who have provided their email addresses to our office. If you prefer to receive our information by email only, please let us know by calling 902-1709.

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