

Peanuts in the V-C region continue to progress rather well but across the region peanuts are variable in both size and development. In addition to a wide range in planting dates sporadic rainfall is contributing to variation in progression of the crop.

Many growers are applying their second fungicide spray for leaf spot and stem rot in the upper V-C region while growers in the lower V-C region are on their third spray. Leaf spot has been observed in the lower V-C region and growers are working toward preventing epidemics from starting. Applications of gypsum and insecticide for corn rootworm are complete in most instances but there is concern in extremely dry areas that lesser cornstalk borer and burrower bug could become significant pests, especially in the lower V-C region. Across the region spider mite outbreaks could occur. However, at the current time these pests are not a significant problem but they could become a major issue if rainfall becomes more limited. Foliar-feeding insects have not been observed at levels requiring insecticide application in most cases but this could change over the next few weeks. Growers are encouraged to scout fields frequently and apply insecticide appropriately.

While rainfall is sporadic, high temperatures and high relative humidity remain at threshold levels for pathogen development in many cases, and growers are encouraged to check local advisories for disease activity and target fungicide sprays appropriately even though conditions seem dry. In 2017 late leaf spot was a major problem in some areas, in part because rainfall was limited or sporadic but conditions for pathogen development continued to be adequate. In some instances growers decided not to continue spray programs and this allowed disease to develop. Fungicides are generally protective with limited curative ability.

Weeds in most fields have been controlled adequately but some escapes are beginning to appear (annual grasses, morningglory, Palmer amaranth, common ragweed, eclipta, sicklepod and others). Early planted peanut are producing and filling pods and applications of herbicides during this stage of peanut can cause minor yield loss. Growers need to consider the density of weeds before making broadcast applications across fields, especially with herbicides that can cause injury to peanut (PPO inhibitors in particular). Growers are encouraged to remove escaped weeds that are prone to resistance development (Palmer amaranth and common ragweed, for example).

The peanut crop in the V-C region continues to show promise but near optimum conditions will be needed for the remainder of this season for high yields and market grades to be realized. The current yield projection remains at 4,420 kg/ha (3,950 lbs/acre) for the region.

Peanut growth and development near Whiteville, North Carolina on July 16







Peanut near Rocky Mount, North Carolina, on July 18. Peanut was planted the first week of June.







Large Palmer amaranth plant treated with herbicide near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on July 18.



Tomato spotted wilt in peanut canopy near Whiteville, North Carolina on July 16.





