

Typical late-spring temperatures have arrived in the Virginia-Carolina region. With the exception of some replanting and delays due to wet fields and logistics, peanuts across the region are planted as of June 10 (98%). Approximately 35% of planted area in the region was planted in late May or early June. These planting dates have worked well during the past three years but generally peanuts planted in mid-May yield consistently higher than later plantings. With the slow start peanuts will need consistent rain and warm temperatures throughout the growing season to yield at optimum levels. Planting dates in the region range from the last week of April through the week of June 8.

Growers continue to manage thrips with either in-furrow sprays at planting or applications of acephate once peanuts have emerged. Although control has varied, some thrips injury has been observed even when in-furrow products were applied, especially for peanuts planted in late April and early May. Peanuts planted during this window took 14 to 18 days to emerge in some cases. Once emerged, cooler temperatures in mid and late May limited growth of peanuts. Under these conditions, in many cases systemic insecticides have not provide complete control. Peanuts were not able to grow out of thrips injury this spring as rapidly as in springs with warmer temperatures.

Injury from herbicides applied at planting was occurred in some fields. This injury is generally transient and peanuts recover quickly. Heavy rains during the time when peanuts were emerging often caused splashing of soil and herbicide onto peanut seedlings. Injury from the herbicide flumioxazin (Valor) is shown in the images below. Herbicides applied at planting have generally controlled weeds relatively well at this point in the season, in part due to adequate rain for activation. However, weed escapes are beginning to be apparent and growers are applying postemergence herbicides to control these weeds.

Calcium sulfate (gypsum) will be applied to many fields in the coming weeks. Virginia market type varieties are predominant in the V-C region and require supplemental calcium in the pegging zone. Larger-seeded runner varieties are also responsive to gypsum.

Growers in high risk fields will apply chlorpyrifos to control southern corn rootworm. High risk fields are those with irrigation or greater water-holding capacity that favor survival of larvae that feed on pods. Other insect pests include burrower bug in the lower V-C region, primarily in reduced tillage systems, and leaf hoppers. Foliar-feeding insect pests such as corn rootworm, tobacco budworm, and fall armyworm are generally not an issue until July. Rainfall and relatively cool temperatures thus far have been adequate to minimize outbreaks of spider mites.

Growers are formulating fungicide programs for leaf spot disease and stem rot. Most fungicide programs are initiated at the R3 stage of peanut development unless fields are considered at high risk for pathogens. In most instances the first fungicide treatment

will not be applied until late June in the lower V-C region and into July in the central and northern section of the region.

Estimated planted area has been adjusted down slightly due to wet fields that have pushed plantings into June. Planted acres in North Carolina is estimated to be 96,000 acres (38,900 ha). Acreage in South Carolina remains at 75,000 acres (30,400 ha) while in Virginia acreage is estimated to be 24,000 acres (9,700 ha), respectively. The market type balance is 27% runner and 73% Virginia with the majority of runner market types planted in South Carolina. Even with a relatively slow start, yield potential in the region continues to be 4,000 pounds/acre farmer stock (4,500 kg/ha).

Peanut near Lewiston-Woodville in North Carolina. Peanut was planted May 5 with image recorded June 9.



Peanut near Lewiston-Woodville on June 9 in a twin-row planting pattern.



Injury from thrips feeding near Lewiston-Woodville on June 9. Peanut was planted May 5.



Protection of peanut from thrips feeding on June 9 after planting on May 5 with the systemic insecticide Thimet applied in the seed furrow. Thimet can cause phytotoxicity on lower leaves in some cases.



Peanut injury caused by herbicide near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on June 4. Peanut was planted May 12 and treated with Valor SX immediately after planting. Injury from splashing of soil onto leaves after intense rain can cause this injury. Injury is generally transient and peanuts recover quickly.



