

Peanuts across the Virginia-Carolina region are progressing well in most cases after a relatively slow start in May and June due to cooler temperatures and in some cases excessive rain. Fields continue to be relatively weed-free across the region although weeds are beginning to escape effective early season weed control programs. Growers will need to make additional sprays to control weeds that have emerged. In many cases growers are co-applying residual and contact herbicides to extend weed control further into the season.

Gypsum applications have been delayed in some cases across the Virginia-Carolina region due to wet field conditions and limited supplies of product. In some cases companies distributing gypsum directly to growers or making custom applications of gypsum have experienced substantial delays in moving product.

Thrips populations have decreased and peanuts are now growing well enough to minimize any adverse impacts of this insect pest. Peanuts that experienced slow growing conditions and thrips injury earlier in the season are compensating well but reproductive development could be delayed. The extent of delays in maturation will not be known until late August. Chlorpyrifos is being applied in many areas of the region where risk from southern corn rootworm exists. This insect pest is generally not a major issue on coarser-textured soils that are predominant across the region. However, fields under irrigation and in areas where excessive or consistent rainfall is occurring are at greater risk, especially if fields have finer textures and are poorly drained. Potato leaf hopper injury has been observed in some fields, especially where chlorpyrifos has not been applied. Growers can easily control this insect with a pyrethroid application but timelines is important. Corn earworm, tobacco budworm, and fall armyworm populations have not developed to a major extent across the region. However, growers and their advisors will need to routinely scout fields to make sure these insect pests are controlled if needed. Spider mite populations are low across much of the region due to generally wet conditions and relatively high humidity. However, peanuts are grown on sandy soils without irrigation across much of the region, and changes in weather patterns that result in dry conditions with high temperatures could result in outbreaks of this arthropod pest, especially if fungicides are overused and chlorpyrifos or pyrethroid insecticides are applied under drier conditions. Some areas of the region have missed recent rainfall events are could experience issues with spider mites and lesser cornstalk borer.

Growers have made their first or second fungicide sprays at this point. In the upper Virginia-Carolina region, most growers are in the process of making their first spray. In the lower Virginia-Carolina region growers are moving to their second and possibly third sprays depending on planting date. The initial fungicide spray is focused on leaf spot disease while subsequent sprays address both leaf spot and stem rot (white mold.) The micronutrients boron and manganese are being applied along with fungicide sprays.

The estimate of planted acres in North Carolina continues to be 96,000 acres (38,900 ha) while acreage in South Carolina is 75,000 (30,400 ha) and 24,000 (9,700 ha) in

Virginia. Yield potential in the region has been lowered slightly to 3,950 pounds/acre farmer stock (4,420 kg/ha.)

Palmer amaranth emerging in a field near Rocky Mount, NC on July 8. Residual weed control was good early in the season but excessive rain in some areas has resulted in weed escapes. Yellowing of peanut foliage in this image is caused by potato leafhoppers in part because of delays in insecticide application due to rain.



Section of fields near Whiteville, NC where rainfall was excessive and water ponded in areas of fields and caused erosion in other areas.





Area in a field near Lewiston-Woodville, NC where water ponded earlier in the growing season but peanuts are now recovering. Yield likely will be lower in these areas.





Peanut field near Oak City, NC on July 8. Peanut was planted in mid-May.



Peanut near Lewiston-Woodville, NC on July 8. Peanut was planted in mid-May and gypsum was recently applied.



