

The majority of peanut fields in the Virginia-Carolina region are weed-free with the exception of periodic escapes of individuals plants. Growers may need to apply herbicides to control escapes but in general growers have kept fields weed-free for much of the first half of the season. Worm and caterpillar outbreaks are limited at this point in time, although by August fall armyworm, tobacco budworm and corn earworm may become more prevalent. Growers in the upper Virginia-Carolina region have made their second application of fungicides in many areas while growers in the lower portion of the region are making their third application at this point in time. Growers are applying fungicides that are effective against pathogens that cause both leaf spot disease and stem rot disease. Sclerotinia blight has been observed in Virginia and advisories for this disease indicate that it may be active in fields with a history of the pathogen causing this disease. Tomato spotted wilt has been reported across the region but most notably in the lower Virginia-Carolina region.

Manganese deficiencies have been observed in fields with higher soil pH values but this issue can be corrected with relatively inexpensive applications of manganese included with fungicide sprays. Growers are also applying the micronutrient boron to ensure proper kernel formation. The vast majority of fields have received gypsum, although weather patterns and delays in distribution of product have resulted in later than desired applications. Peanut respond positively to gypsum throughout July and into August. Some fields are showing nitrogen deficiencies, generally due to equipment delivery issues on planter units or caving in of dry soil at planting after seed drop but before in-furrow sprays are delivered. Growers are making decisions on the financial value of applications of ammonium sulfate to correct deficiencies depending on the percentage of the field with a true nitrogen deficiency. Some fields continue to have low areas where yields will be reduced significantly from excessive ponding of water. However, overall most fields are in good shape when it comes to ability to handle the abundant rain during the past six weeks. Many growers are making their first application of prohexadione calcium, a plant growth regulator that prevents excessive vine growth by preventing internode elongation. With abundant rainfall across much of the region this plant growth regulator will be important in managing vine growth. Many growers will make a second application two to three weeks after the initial spray depending on regrowth and weather patterns.

Peanut development is normal for this time of the growing season in most fields. There are some areas where rainfall has been more limited but generally peanut are progressing well across the Virginia-Carolina region. Beginning in the August report, heat unit accumulation will be provided for selective locations along with rainfall amounts since May 1.

Estimated yield potential continues to be 4,480 kg/ha (4,000 lbs/acre.) Estimates of market type varieties grown in the region remains the same. Estimated land area planted to peanuts in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia is 42,500 ha (105,000 acres), 34,400 ha (85,000 acres), and 11,300 ha (28,000 acres), respectively.

Peanut expressing manganese deficiency.



Peanut expressing symptoms of tomato spotted wilt caused by a virus.



Peanut canopy in a field near Whiteville, NC on July 22. Peanut was planted in mid-May.



Peanut plant with pegs and pods from a field near Whiteville, NC on July 22.



Water-damaged peanut near Tarboro, NC on July 21.



Peanut field near Oak City, NC on July 21.



Peanut field near Rocky Mount, NC on July 19.



Rain droplets in the peanut canopy near Rocky Mount, NC on July 19.



Palmer amaranth in the peanut canopy on July 19 near Rocky Mount, NC.



Common lambsquarters in the peanut canopy near Tarboro, NC on July 19.



Eclipta in the peanut canopy near Lewiston-Woodville, NC on July 21.



Fungicide being applied near Lewiston-Woodville, NC on July 21.

