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Fwd: Prime Time for Sclerotinia Leaf Blight in Peanuts

1 message

Mitch Smith <rsmith4@ncsu.edu>
To: David Jordan <David_Jordan@ncsu.edu>

Sat, Aug 13, 2022 at 6:14 AM

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From: **Mitch Smith** <rsmith4@ncsu.edu>
Date: Fri, Aug 12, 2022 at 3:30 PM
Subject: Prime Time for Sclerotinia Leaf Blight in Peanuts
To: Mitch Smith <rsmith4@ncsu.edu>



AGRICULTURE / Pitt County Center

August 12, 2022



Peanut News

PRIME TIME FOR SCLEROTINIA LEAF BLIGHT

When the growing season provides cooler temperatures and high soil moisture, this is the time to watch for Sclerotinia leaf blight (SLB). Before treating for this disease, take a walk through the lower areas of a field because that is where you typically see this disease first.

Scout by parting the vines to reveal bleached stems and the white cottony growth of the fungus. Symptoms are most visible on humid mornings or after a rain. SLB is strongly influenced by the weather and usually starts to be seen beginning in mid-August. However, infections can occur during any cool, rainy spell if rows are within 6 inches of closing.

Treatment Considerations

Since the first spray for SLB is the most critical, consider the following approaches when it comes to the management of this disease.

Fields with a “light” history of SLB: It is important to identify SLB in a field before making an application of a fungicide. This is especially true when the fungicides Miravis plus Elatus were already applied in a field. Although this tankmix is primarily a spray for leaf spot and stem rot control, it gives added protection against SLB. Last year, 27% of growers used this mixture in the 3rd or 4th spray slot.

The threshold for SLB is one diseased plant per 100 feet of row.

Fields with a history of “high” levels of SLB (and rows touching): Spray as soon as the environment is favorable for disease as indicated by the peanut spray advisory during August. *Omega* and *Endura* will last for 21-28 days if used to combat this disease.

The “August” Fungicide Spray

For most Pitt County peanut fields, “late” leaf spot is the main leaf spot to combat. It is also the most difficult to control. One recommended peanut spray option for late August is chlorothalonil plus tebuconazole depending on when the last spray treatment was made in a field. One more application of chlorothalonil might be needed in September depending on

peanut maturity, rainfall patterns, and temperatures regardless of what fungicide was used during the months of August and September.

A Final Spray? (and When?)

Pitt County peanut farmers will have 20% more Virginia type peanuts to harvest this season as our total county acreage increased from 6,631 acres in 2021 to 7,959 acres in 2022. With more acreage, it is important to provide adequate protection until digging which usually occurs during the last week in September.

The fundamentals of a peanut spray program include chlorothalonil as the first and the last spray. Concluding a program with chlorothalonil reduces the risk of fungicide resistance and helps to preserve the fungicides that we use to protect our crop in the future. One more chlorothalonil spray could be needed in mid-September (depending on peanut pod maturity, rainfall patterns, temperatures, and logistics) regardless of what was used during the months of August and early September.

But how does a peanut farmer decide whether than final spray should be made as digging approaches?

Answer: Use the Pitt County Peanut Spray Hotline!

The Pitt County Peanut Spray Hotline

Last year, 43% of Pitt County growers sprayed their peanuts 4 times, 29% sprayed 5 times, and 29% spray 6 times. For many years, peanut farmers have relied on the peanut spray advisory to determine if conditions are favorable for disease development and whether to make an application of a fungicide. By using the “Last Effective Spray Date,” (LESD), the interval of two weeks may be expanded and could result in the reduction of one spray during the season.

The peanut spray advisory can also assist growers in determining whether to apply a fungicide in September. **The Pitt County Peanut Spray Advisory is recorded daily and can be accessed by calling 252-902-1720.** Please note that this advisory is intended for dryland peanuts. All irrigated peanuts should be sprayed on a two-week schedule.

Upcoming Peanut Events

Thursday, September 8, NC Peanut Field Day, Lewiston-Woodville, 8:30-11:00 a.m. (Annual Peanut Grower Association meeting after field tour)

Wednesday, September 14, PVQE Plot Tour, Hamilton, 10:30 a.m. - noon

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