VC Peanut News – Spring/Summer 2023

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Notes During Planting

Some areas, particularly with full-season runners, have more acres being planted in April to get the peanut season started. While this can help in protecting against running out of time late in the season for harvest or with reducing exposure to leaf spot, a few items should still be considered, in addition to standard soil temperature (≥65°F at 4" for 3 days), moisture, and depth (generally 2 to 3", not less than 1.5"). Over the last few seasons, thrips and tomato spotted wilt levels have been higher in the state as a whole, and thrips activity is characteristically elevated in April plantings. Admire Pro quantities are anticipated to be limited for the coming year. While Admire Pro in our tests helps against thrips feeding, it characteristically aggravates tomato spotted wilt infections. Its limited availability this year may help reduce TSW some by increasing usage of other products, but still with April planted fields we likely would see a benefit with a post emergence application of acephate. Among the granular products, AgLogic tends to provide better protection against thrips feeding injury, whereas Thimet provides a greater reduction in TSW infections, with the profitability of the two being comparable, depending on rates and costs. Vydate had some efficacy against thrips injury in trial work last year, but when its cost was factored in, it was not as competitive as other options.

While row crop ground in the state that has never had peanuts planted on it has decreased, some still remains. Peanuts planted into new ground need to have viable inoculant to be fully functional. In those cases it is helpful to include two different types of inoculant (liquid plus a granular/seed treatment) to buffer against one failing. Conversely, in ground following peanut, volunteer management in rotation crops goes a long way in helping to reduce survival of fungal diseases like leaf spot, or nematodes, which helps to make populations easier to manage in following years.

Sometimes a yield increase is seen following an increase in seeding rate, but does this payoff? It may not sound exciting, but Clemson's recommendation has not changed from the 5 seed per foot for Virginias and 6 seed per foot for runners (singles). While a yield increase can be seen at higher seeding rates, the cost of the additional seed offsets these gains.

Are there modifications that can be done to plant faster? The most effective way to plant faster, without reducing the quality of our stands, is to expand on the equipment side to increase the number of rows that can be planted per pass. This helps to avoid increasing ground speed at the cost of stand uniformity. This is the same idea that applies to harvest. Increasing equipment capacity, while it is not without its own costs, helps to preserve yield potential when handling a larger total acreage in a limited time window.