

Thrips and Nematode Suppression with Vydate: Results from On-Farm and Research Station Trials

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Injury to peanut caused by thrips can decrease peanut yield in North Carolina. Growers often apply systemic insecticides in the seed furrow at planting to suppress this insect pest. Regardless of the in-furrow insecticide treatment, acephate is often applied postemergence to provide additional control of thrips. Control of thrips by imidacloprid has become inconsistent in North Carolina. While aldicarb and phorate are available for use in peanut, these insecticides are formulated as granular products, and many growers who adopted use of imidacloprid continue to prefer this insecticide because it is a liquid that can be applied in-furrow with inoculant for use for biological nitrogen fixation. In cases where imidacloprid is less effective now than in the past, many growers are interested in an alternative insecticide that is formulated as a liquid rather than using a granular product (e.g., AgLogic or Thimet). Vydate (oxamyl) has been commercially available for use in peanut during the past two growing seasons in North Carolina. Large-plot, on-farm trials and small-plot, research station trials were conducted in 2022 and 2023 to determine efficacy of Vydate against thrips compared with other in-furrow insecticides. Thrips control with Vydate was similar to control by aldicarb, imidacloprid, and phorate in several trials. In some trials, Vydate was more effective than imidacloprid. Vydate was compatible with inoculant applied for biological nitrogen fixation. Although additional research is needed to confirm efficacy over a broader range of conditions, these data indicate that Vydate is a reasonable alternative to imidacloprid for growers who prefer a liquid product to apply in the seed furrow when imidacloprid is only marginally effective. Results relative to suppression of plant parasitic nematodes by Vydate were inconclusive.