

## **Survey of Peanut Farmer Practices used to Protect Peanut from Injury Caused by Thrips in the Virginia-Carolina Region**

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A survey of practices associated with insect management, tillage systems, and freeze damage in peanut was conducted in 2024 at county production meetings for the 2023 cropping cycle in North Carolina (150 respondents representing 43% of acreage in the state) and statewide production meetings in Virginia (41 respondents representing 37% of acreage in the state) and South Carolina (6 respondents representing 1,200 acres in the state). In North Carolina and Virginia, the most popular in-furrow insecticide was imidacloprid (64% and 76% of growers, respectively) followed by AgLogic and acephate (14% to 20% of growers). Phorate was the most popular in-furrow insecticide in South Carolina. Sixty to 68% of growers reported that they made routine applications of acephate after peanuts emerged in North Carolina and Virginia, with 33% of growers doing so in South Carolina. In North Carolina, more growers indicated that thrips were more difficult to control now than in the past (57%) compared with those indicating that difficulty in controlling thrips had not changed (35%). In Virginia and South Carolina, the percentage of growers for these categories was similar. In North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina, 19%, 3%, and 17% of growers, respectively, indicated that they had damage from burrower bug in 2023. Incidence of tomato spotted wilt was 9% to 12% across the three states. A higher percentage of growers in Virginia used reduced tillage (49%) compared with North Carolina (24%) and South Carolina (33%). Growers were asked how many hours separated digging and a freeze or frost event when they had freeze damage. When 24, 48, 72, and 96 hours separated digging and the freeze or frost event, two, 3, 1, and 4 percent of growers reported freeze damage at these respective intervals.