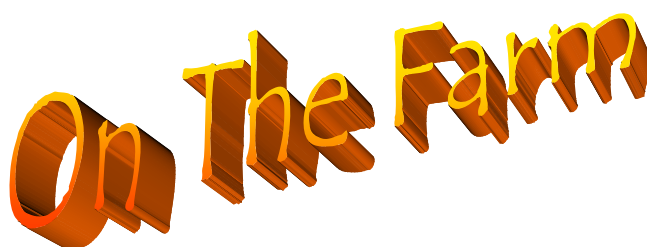


*Alabama A&M and
Auburn Universities*



Richard L. Petcher
Regional Extension Agronomist for SW AL
Baldwin County Extension Office
302A Byrne Street, Bay Minette, AL 36507
(251) 937-7176; Cell (251) 202-1009; SL 7*145
Email: petchrl@auburn.edu

September 17, 2008

September News Letter 2008

Nematodes in Your Fields

This of course is a very busy time for farmers, but August and September are the best times to take nematode samples. This will help you determine if a nematicide is needed in those fields for the next year. With Soybeans back into production we are seeing higher numbers of Root Knot nematodes than we expected in Soybean fields, even those fields which have been in a good rotation.

ROW CROP ACRES FOR SOUTHWEST ALABAMA 2008

County	Peanuts	Cotton	Corn	Soybeans	Grain Sorghum	Wheat grain	Oats grain
Baldwin	19,291	9,129	2,673	18,982	539	14,714	3,969
Escambia	12,275	10,344	5,206	8,057	108	7,957	2,002
Monroe	8,115	17,247	1,696	3,984		1,698	500
Mobile	7,024	5,698	1,189	182		800	100
Conecuh	800	7,808	1,500	1,000		2,000	150
Butler	617	565	1,759	570	142	1,223	
Washington	934	1,194	529	505		552	15
Clarke	290	826	212	1			150
Total Acres	49,346	52,811	15,464	33,281	789	20,987	6,886

Total Acres: 179,564

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES, AND TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY, COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES AND USDA COOPERATING

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability

Changes in Crop Acres From 2007 to 2008

Crop	2007	2008	Difference
Peanuts	47,511	49,346	+ 1,835
Cotton	57,268	52,346	- 4,457
Corn	15,123	15,464	+ 341
Soybeans	17,611	33,281	+ 15,670
Grain Sorghum	638	789	+ 151
Wheat	11,819	20,987	+ 9,168
Oats	6,223	6,886	+ 663
Total Acres	156,193	179,564	+ 23,371

Cotton is still the number one row crop in Southwest Alabama, with peanuts being second, Soybeans third and then corn. The biggest shift in acres was in the 96 % increased acres of Soybeans. Wheat acres also had a 95 % increase. Corn and grain sorghum acres held their own.

Southwest Alabama and Statewide Comparison of Row Crop Acres

Area and Year	Peanuts	Cotton	Corn	Soybeans	Grain Sorghum	Wheat grain	Oats grain
Southwest Alabama 2008	49,346	52,346	15,346	33,281	789	20,987	6,886
Alabama 2008	222,000	310,000	250,000	330,000	12,000	240,000	45,000
Alabama 2007	160,000	400,000	340,000	190,000	12,000	120,000	45,000

Late Planted Corn

There have been several thousand acres of late planted corn this year. During the month of August corn disease pressure has built up to tremendous heights. So unless you have a corn hybrid with an extremely good disease package it is recommended that when corn reaches early tassel stage that you spray a fungicide like Quilt or Headline on the corn, regardless of how disease free your corn looks at this point. Diseases hit corn when it is in the fruiting stage and can take your yield potential down quickly. Stink bugs have also caused tremendous damage this year to corn that was not treated. So you need to add an insecticide to your fungicide treatment. The stink bug spray application times is when the ear is barely showing through the leaf. This is the same time to start your fungicide spray program. Every corn specialist that I have talked to agrees that after the first spray on your corn wait 2 to 3 weeks and apply the second fungicide application to your corn. Disease pressure is extremely high.

Cotton Insect Control: Dr. Ron Smith, AU Cotton Entomologist

Cotton insect control is basically winding down with the major concern still being the stink bugs on young bolls. Stink bugs can damage young bolls up to 25 days of age. This would be up until the boll toughens and is hard to squeeze with your hands and make an indentation with your

thumb nail. The threshold for treating late cotton for stink bugs would be 20 – 30 % damage to young bolls. Velvet Bean Caterpillars and Soybean Loopers are starting to build up in South Alabama and are typically a late season pest here. It takes 5 to 6 foliage feeding worms to be a treatable level. Intrepid is now labeled on peanuts. So now both Steward and Intrepid are labeled on cotton, soybeans and peanuts. These would be the chemical of choice if you have Loopers in the mix. The rate would be four plus ounces of Intrepid or 5.5 ounces of Steward.

COTTON DEFOLIATION and LATE SEASON WEED CONTROL

Mike Patterson
Extension Weed Scientist

Cotton defoliation varies each year, primarily due to the condition of the crop and environment. Optimum cotton defoliation will be obtained when temperatures are in the mid 80's F. September temperatures are usually good for cotton defoliation. Temperatures generally begin to decline in Alabama during October and the day length shortens. The activity of most cotton harvest aides decreases as temperatures drop from 80 degrees F. Above 80 F you should expect the optimum activity from a product. Extremely high temperatures (>90 F.) can cause some harvest aide materials to stick cotton leaves instead of defoliating them. Use lower rates of Def/Folex above 90 F.

The use of ethephon (Prep, etc.) in Alabama cotton has generally provided better overall defoliation and optimum once-over harvest. This may be the case in 2008, but carrying the crop out into cooler weather will call for higher rates of ethephon than we would normally use. Fortunately, the price of ethephon has decreased significantly in the past few years. I would recommend using at least 1.5 pounds (2 pints) per acre, although the minimum rate for boll opening is 1.33 pints. The newer fast acting defoliant like Aim, Blizzard, ET, and Resource all work better when mixed with ethephon. These products alone only provide cotton defoliation with little regrowth suppression or boll opening; however, they can be cost effective and do work quickly. Def/Folex (phosphorotrithioate) is an old standby and a little of this added to ethephon + thidiazuron (Dropp, etc.) will help overall performance in cooler weather. Thidiazuron (Dropp, Daze, FreeFall, Ginstar, etc.) is the only product that has significant re-growth suppression activity. Cotton re-growth after initial defoliation is largely dependent on the crop and soil moisture conditions. Dry crop at defoliation and for several days afterward means you get about 100% re-growth suppression from just about any treatment. Defoliation of a dry crop followed by large rain means you can't stop re-growth regardless of the material used. The best scenario for harvest aide treatment is to apply a mixture of materials that defoliate and open all harvestable bolls within 10 days and you harvest on day 11. Activated ethephon products like Finish and FirstPick work faster than straight ethephon products. They are the Cadillac's of the boll openers, but cost more. I have seen these products open bolls within eight days, a feat that may be important if a hurricane or freeze is coming. Remember the number one rule of spraying a harvest aide on cotton—you only defoliate or open what the spray hits, so do a good job of covering the plants (minimum of 10gallons by ground).

Late season morningglories and other weeds can cause problems at harvest. Envoke can be sprayed over-the-top up to 60 days prior to cotton harvest and will provide good activity on morningglories that have climbed over the cotton. Glyphosate (Roundup, Touchdown, etc.) can be sprayed over-the-top of Roundup Ready cotton that has 20 percent or greater open bolls, assuming no gaps in fruiting. If there is a gap with no fruit between the lower and upper bolls, then wait until the upper harvestable bolls are physiologically mature (slice the topmost harvestable bolls to check for brown seed coats) before applying glyphosate. Roundup Ready Flex cotton can be sprayed with glyphosate until 60% open. Glyphosate will start drying grasses

and other weeds but may take a couple of weeks to exert its full influence. Products like Aim and ET can help dry down morningglory vines climbing over cotton at harvest.

Soybean Asian Rust Update:

The Auburn University Soybean Rust Hotline (Dr. Ed Sikora) is 800-446-0388. View the Soybean Rust PIPE website: <http://www.sbrusa.net> for frequent updates.

As of today, Soybean Rust has not been found in any commercial Soybean fields in Alabama. However, it has been found in the Soybean Sentinel plot in Fairhope and on Kudzu in Pike and Crenshaw Counties. Asian Rust is in the area. Growers need to keep their Soybeans protected with a fungicide. However, once Soybeans are in the R6 (full seed) stage generally a fungicide application is not recommended. Yield responses beyond R6 are uncertain and many fungicide labels specify that applications be made prior to R6.

When Do You Make the Last Leafspot Spray on Peanuts?

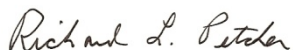
It is very important to keep the leaves on a peanut plant in order to get the maximum yield in peanuts. The decision to spray leafspot with a fungicide or not is important all during the season. However, toward the end of the growing season the decision to spray can make or cost a lot of money. The fungus organism that causes leafspot takes 20 days to affect the plant. During hot, humid weather conditions it takes 14 days from the time the leafspot spore lands on a leaf until it makes a spot and then 6 more days before that leaf will fall off the vine. During those 20 days that particular leaf will be putting its sap into the vine and down into the pods. If you are within 20 days of harvesting your peanuts, you would not benefit from spraying. You would only spray for leafspot if due to weather or age of your peanuts you thought it would be more than 20 days before you could harvest.

Peanut Maturity Guide by Variety: These days to maturity are to be used as just a helpful guide. Some of the early peanuts seem to be maturing about 5 to 7 days early. So use this only as a guide. Base your decision on maturity of the peanut kernel and your vine condition not the calendar.

Medium Maturing Varieties				Late Maturing	
Georgia Green	135 days	Florida 07	140 days	York	150 days
Georgia 03L	135	AP-3	140	C99-R	155
AT 0385RO	135			Ga 02C	155 plus
McCloud	135			Ga 01R	155
Georgia 06G	135				
AP-4	135				

Again, I hope this information has been helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Petcher
Regional Extension Agent
Agronomic Crops

Peanut Planting Record-Harvest Guide

Date planted _____ Days of age _____

		120 Days		130 Days		135 Days	
April	7	August	5	August	15	August	20
April	10	August	8	August	18	August	23
April	13	August	11	August	21	August	26
April	16	August	14	August	24	August	29
April	19	August	17	August	27	September	2
April	22	August	20	August	30	September	5
April	25	August	23	September	2	September	7
April	28	August	26	September	5	September	10
May	1	August	29	September	8	September	13
May	4	September	1	September	11	September	16
May	7	September	4	September	14	September	19
May	10	September	7	September	17	September	22
May	13	September	10	September	20	September	25
May	16	September	13	September	23	September	28
May	19	September	16	September	26	October	1
May	22	September	19	September	29	October	4
May	25	September	22	October	2	October	6
May	28	September	25	October	5	October	10
May	31	September	28	October	8	October	13
June	3	October	1	October	11	October	17
June	6	October	4	October	14	October	19
June	9	October	7	October	17	October	22
June	12	October	10	October	20	October	25
June	15	October	13	October	23	October	28
June	18	October	16	October	26	October	31
June	21	October	19	October	29	November	4

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES, AND TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY, COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES AND USDA COOPERATING

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability