Since the 2002 Peanut Pest Management recommendations were finalized, several modified labels for registered fungicide have been released. These changes for 2002 are outlined below.

EchoPropiMax Fungicide Co-Pack

A label for the EchoPropiMax co-pack, which includes containers of PropiMax EC and Echo 720 in each case, is being marketed for use on peanut. The active ingredients are propiconazole (PropiMax EC) and chlorothalonil (Echo 720). The target peanut diseases for the EchoPropiMax co-pack, which are early and late leaf spot, are the same as those for the similar Tilt/Bravo co-pack. Like Tilt/Bravo, EchoPropiMax will have little if any activity against white mold and Rhizoctonia limb rot.

EchoPropiMax co-pack was designed to be applied to 10 acres of peanut. The effective application rate is 1.0 pt/A for the Echo 720 and 2.0 fl. oz./A for the PropiMax EC components. When applied by air and with ground equipment, this product should be delivered in 5 gallons and 15 gallons of water, respectively. The first application of EchoPropiMax should be made 30 to no more than 40 days after planting and may be repeated on a 14-day schedule for a total of up to 8 applications until 14 days prior to the expected digging date. Normally, two applications of a product like EchoPropiMax or Tilt/Bravo are made before applications of a white mold fungicide are made in late June or early July, particularly in those fields with a history of damaging disease outbreaks. If there is little risk from either white mold or Rhizoctonia limb rot, either of this fungicide co-packs could be applied full season for the control of leaf spot diseases. When these two diseases pose a significant threat, applications of a recommended white mold fungicide such as Folicur 3.6F, Abound 2SC, or Moncut 70DF will have to be made. If multiple applications of EchoPropiMax or Tilt/Bravo are made late in the growing season in areas
where peanut rust is common, the fields must be scouted every week, particularly during periods of frequent showers, to insure that rust outbreaks do not occur.

In field studies, no field studies have been conducted with the EchoPropiMax co-pack on peanuts. The only information available concerning performance of this fungicide combination comes from field trials with Tilt/Bravo. In trials at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center, little difference in the level of leaf spot control was observed between Tilt/Bravo and the standard season-long Bravo Ultrex program. As previously mentioned, Tilt/Bravo gave no control of white mold on peanut.

Headline Fungicide Registration on Hold

At the time of the 2002 winter meetings, I thought that Headline would be labeled for use on peanuts by April. Obviously, that did not happen. Apparently, BASF request for a registration was delayed by an EPA request for more information, probably in the areas of environmental fate or toxicology. As a result, additional studies will be conducted this year and the completed package will be resubmitted later this year. Expect some action on this label before the 2003-growing season. Additional efficacy trials for the control of peanut diseases will be conducted with Headline at the Wiregrass and Gulf Coast Research and Extension Centers this summer. A final report on the effectiveness of this fungicide against leaf spot diseases and white mold will be issued before the 2003-growing season.

Moncut Formulation Change

To reduce exposure during mixing and handling, the formulation of Moncut has been changed from a 50% wettable powdery to a 70% dry flowable product. The old Moncut 50W formulation was very dusty, difficult to measure, and hard to disperse in water. The new Moncut 70DF is much easier to handle.

With the new formulation, the application rates change. For one application, apply 1.43 to 2.86 pounds of Moncut 70DF per acre about 50 to 70 days after planting. Use the higher rate in fields with a history of destructive white mold outbreaks. When two applications of Moncut 70DF are scheduled, the application rate is 0.71 to 1.43 pounds per acre. Again, the first application should be made 50 to 70 days after planting. The second should follow about 30 days after the first. For the four-spray program, apply 0.36 to 0.71 pounds of Moncut 70DF. Repeat applications at 10 to 14-day intervals beginning about 50 to 70 days after planting. Moncut 70DF, which has good activity against Rhizoctonia limb rot and may help suppress peanut rust, must be applied in combination with a leaf spot fungicide such as chlorothalonil.

Artisan Registration

Artisan 3.6E fungicide received a registration for the control of foliar and soil-borne diseases of peanut. The active ingredients in this product are 3.0 lb ai of flutolanil and 0.6 lb ai propiconazole per gallon. Previously, Artisan 3.6E was marketed under the trade name Montero and is listed in the 2002 Peanut IPM Recommendations and ANR-500A >Alabama Pest Management Handbook under that trade name. This product is now being distributed by the Japanese company that holds the flutolanil patent Nichino American, Inc.
The target diseases and application rates listed in the above extension publications for Montero have not been changed on the Artisan 3.6E label. The propiconazole component has activity against early and late leaf spot while preventative applications of flutolanil will give good control of white mold (southern stem rot) and Rhizoctonia limb rot. In addition, flutolanil also has some activity against peanut rust.

When applied alone, two and possible three (low rate only) mid-summer applications of Artisan 3.6E at rates of 26 or 32 fl oz/A. The first application of Artisan 3.6E should be made approximately 45 to 60 days after planting and before signs or symptoms of white mold are seen. At both application rates, a second application should follow about 21 to 30 days later. To insure effective leaf spot control, an application of another leaf spot fungicide such as Bravo Ultrex should be made about 14 days after the first and any subsequent application of Artisan 3.6E.

Peanut producers also have the option of applying Artisan 3.6E in a tank mixture with a chlorothalonil fungicide such as Bravo Ultrex, Bravo Weather Stik, Echo 720, or Terranil 6F for the control of leaf spot and soil-borne diseases of peanut. Apply 13 to 21 fl oz/A of Artisan 3.6E as a tank mixture with 0.75-lb a.i. of a chlorothalonil (1 pint/A of Bravo Weather Stik, Echo 720, or Terranil 6F) (0.9 lb of Bravo Ultrex) fungicide. Use the higher rate of Artisan 3.6E in those fields known to have a history of damaging white mold outbreaks on previous peanut crops. Begin applications of the Artisan 3.6E + chlorothalonil tank mixture approximately 45 to 60 days after planting and repeat treatments at 10 to 14 day intervals. Depending on the date this program begins, make 1 or possibly two applications of a leaf spot fungicide before and after the block of 4 successive applications of the Artisan 3.6E tank mixture are made.

The old Montero product demonstrated good activity against white mold on peanut. The propiconazole component is however more efficacious against early than late leaf spot. As a result, late leaf spot damage may build up to damaging levels, especially in those areas where rainfall is plentiful and disease pressure is high. Tank-mixing Artisan 3.6E with a reduced rate of chlorothalonil should prevent any late leaf spot control failures.