

Santa Rosa County Ag. Sheet
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Late Season Disease Control

Growers whose crops are approaching harvest have many questions regarding late season disease control. Below are some basic recommendations for disease management towards the end of the season.

Condition 1. Crop is within two weeks of harvest- there is little opportunity for a fungicide application at this late date to have any benefit for further disease control. Growers will not likely see a benefit from applying a fungicide within two weeks of projected harvest UNLESS the field is threatened by a tropical storm that could significantly delay harvest.

Condition 2. Crop is within approximately three weeks of harvest and disease control (leaf spot and soilborne disease) is excellent- grower likely does not need to apply additional fungicide, unless tropical storm threatens extended delay in harvest.

Condition 3. Crop is three or more weeks away from harvest and diseases are still a problem in the field- Grower should consider continuation of leaf spot and, in worst cases, soilborne disease control with fungicides.

Condition 4. Crop is approaching harvest, but not there yet, and diseases are severe in the field. Should the grower dig the peanuts early? If the disease in the field is spotted wilt, the grower is most likely to benefit by allowing the crop to reach harvest maturity before digging. For leaf spot diseases, white mold, and CBR, it is best to let the crop reach harvest maturity IF POSSIBLE, but this is not always possible. Where these diseases are severe in the field, there may be situations where the grower must consider sacrificing some grade for increased yield. Poor control of leaf spot, white mold, and CBR late in the season can result in increasing losses as pegs break and pods are lost at digging.

Source: UGA Peanut Pointers Sept. 08
Dr. Bob Kemerait

PEANUT POD BLASTING

Peanut Pod Blasting is being conducted at the Santa Rosa County Extension Office in Jay, every Monday and Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. We are located in the South end of the Jay Community Center, 5259 Booker Lane. If you need some fields processed on days other than Monday or Thursday please call 850 675 6654 to set-up a time.

A GOOD HULL SCRAPE SAMPLE IS CRITICAL

Five to seven plants need to be pulled from four to five representative spots in the field. All peanuts expected to be harvested need to be removed and counted from each individual plant until the sample has between 180 and 220 peanuts. An ideal sample would have 200 peanuts. The number of peanuts is very important because too few peanuts in the sample would delay the optimum harvest date prediction and too many peanuts would indicate to dig too early.

It is important to remember that the hull scrape method is not an absolute indicator of when to harvest peanuts. Other factors such as weather, acreage and equipment limitations, and poor vine condition due to disease may influence digging date. However, all factors considered, the hull scrape method will give the most accurate prediction of harvest.

Sincerely,

Mike Donahoe, County Director
Santa Rosa County

John D. Atkins, Extension Agent
Santa Rosa Count