

**SANTA ROSA COUNTY PEANUT UPDATE: 8/28/2011**

WHITE MOLD by John Atkins, Ag/Livestock Agent

No fungicide program will give you complete control of soilborne diseases in a field. It is estimated that, at best, a good soilborne fungicide program will give 60 – 70% control under ideal conditions.

The timing of fungicides for controlling white mold must be early enough to protect the crop when the disease first appears, which has already past. However, you should avoid applying soilborne fungicides too early so that they will be available when needed later in the season.

Just for a bit of history before we get into the current state of the crops: Prior to 1994 when Folicur was first labeled, we did not have any truly effective fungicides to control white mold. Since 1994, we now have six different fungicides from three different classes that can effectively control white mold. They are; 1. tebuconazole ( marketed as Folicur, Tebuzol, Orius, TriSum, Integral, Muscle, Tebustra, etc.) 2. Quash, 3. Provost, 4. Abound, 5. Evito and 6. flutolanil ( marketed as Moncut, Artisan, Convoy.) Headline is effective in a soilborne disease management program against white mold when applied at the 12 – 15 fl oz/A rate. Headline is not used as a “stand alone” soilborne fungicide, but rather is used in combination with tebuconazole, or perhaps Artisan or Moncut. Use of Headline at 12.0 fl oz will provide adequate control of white mold when used as a part of a soilborne program and will provide exceptional leaf spot control. Still white mold remains, to say the least, troublesome. Two reasons for the difficulty in control are 1) it can tough to tell when you need to begin spraying, and 2) it is not easy to get the fungicide to its target where it can affect the pathogen.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW?**

White mold, white mold, and white mold---While leaf spot diseases appear to be well managed in the fields Bob Kemeriat, University of Georgia Extension Plant Pathologist, and I have visited, **WHITE MOLD** is developing just below the radar in **MANY** fields. By this I mean that driving by a field the white mold may not be obvious; however once in the field, white mold is active in many fields in the underlying canopy. If left unchecked, such will cause **SEVERE** problems in the coming weeks. Because of this, we recommend that all growers a) scout their fields for white mold, b) assess the impact of their current fungicide program, c) consider where appropriate extending their normal fungicide program with tebuconazole later in the season, and d) spraying at night/early morning if needed.

For example, in the field shown below, white mold was present, but not in the wilting and flagging stage. A control option for this field is to scout it again in 10 days to check disease progress.

1. If the disease management program is keeping the disease in check a fungicide option would be tebuconazole at 7.2 oz/A, plus chlorothalonil at ¾ pt/A.
2. If the disease is progressing and beginning to run the rows a fungicide option would be Artisan at 16 oz/A, plus chlorothalonil at 1 pt/A



Wilt/Flagging Not Present



Mycelium Present