Mid-Summer Disease Situation in 2013 Alabama Peanut Crop

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In the past three weeks, peanut production areas across Alabama have received a minimum of 10 to upwards of 30 inches of rainfall, which has prevented many producers from making timely leaf spot fungicide applications or has accelerated the erosion of fungicide residues on peanut foliage. As a result, early leaf spot has started to surge in a good many peanut fields with late leaf spot and peanut rust likely to follow in coming weeks. In addition, several peanut varieties, particularly Georgia-09B, are pretty susceptible to leaf spot diseases. So, conditions favor damaging leaf spot outbreaks, especially if frequent showers continue through the remainder of the summer.

Peanut producers need to scout their fields weekly to determine whether early or possibly late leaf spot has gotten a head start. When leaf spotting is seen, an application of Headline at a minimum of 9 fl oz/A alone or in combination with a triazole fungicide such as either a generic tebuconazole (i.e. Muscle, Tebustar, Orius, etc.) at 7.2 fl oz/A, Alto at 5.5 fl oz/A, or Topguard at 7 fl oz/A needs to be made. If needed, follow with another recommended leaf spot fungicide before making a second Headline application and then continuing with their season-long disease control program up to 14 days before digging. In fields at-risk from leaf spot diseases and rust (mainly Baldwin and Mobile Co.) shorten the interval between fungicide applications to 10 to no more than 14 days. When using a chlorothalonil fungicide (Bravo Weather Stik, Bravo Ultrex, Echo, Equus, Chloronil, etc.) over the next few weeks, add a generic tebuconazole (i.e. Muscle, Tebustar, Orius, etc.) at 7.2 fl oz/A, Alto at 5.5 fl oz/A, Topguard at 7 fl oz/A, Quash, or propiconazole (Tilt, Bumper, etc.) to the tank mixture to get some ‘kick back’ activity against ‘new’ infections by early and late leaf spot fungi.

One caution, generic tebuconazole fungicides are not rainfast. Wash-off occurs when a rain shower occurs within 24 hours of an application of these fungicides. If that happens, a follow up fungicide application needs to be made within 7 days. Better leaf retention will be obtained with generic tebuconazole fungicide by tank mixing them with a chlorothalonil fungicide. In contrast, Headline and possibly other strobilurin fungicides like Abound and Evito tend to have good to excellent rainfastness on peanut foliage.
Peanut rust will likely be a serious threat to peanuts grown in Baldwin and Mobile Co as well as Escambia, Covington, Geneva, and Houston Co. As noted above, peanut producers in these counties are strongly advised to scout their peanuts weekly beginning in August for rust hot spots. Nearly all fungicides that have good leaf spot activity will also control rust. For recommended rust fungicides, refer to [http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/I/IPM-0360/IPM-0360.pdf](http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/I/IPM-0360/IPM-0360.pdf). Other than using a recommended fungicide, the best strategy for controlling rust involves shortening fungicide spray intervals to 10 days. Once rust gets rolling in peanuts, it’s very hard to stop.

Stem rot or white mold has also gotten off to a fast start in peanuts. It’s much more of a problem in the traditional peanut production area in SE Alabama but is showing up in field trials at the Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center in Fairhope, AL. Incidence of stem rot is typically much higher the more frequently peanuts are cropped in individual fields but there are a few fields that historically have high levels of this disease regardless of cropping history. Most widely planted runner peanut varieties, except maybe Florida 07 and Georgia-07W, are fairly susceptible to stem rot. Convoy at rates from 20 to 32 fl oz/A tends to have a slight edge in performance in high stem rot pressure situations. Otherwise, Fontelis, Provost, Abound alone or tank mixed with Alto, and Priaxor when applied at recommended rates for stem rot control also are effective against this disease. Headline has good stem rot activity but must be applied at ‘night’ when the leaves are folded to get best results. Other strobilurin fungicides like Abound would also benefit from night applications. The generic tebuconazole fungicides as well as Evito, Evito T, Topguard, Quash also have stem rot activity and would be more suitable in lower pressure situations. See IPM-0360 at [http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/I/IPM-0360/IPM-0360.pdf](http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/I/IPM-0360/IPM-0360.pdf) for more information on stem rot fungicide application rates and use patterns.

While thrips damage levels were high in a lot of peanut fields, TSWV pressure is fairly low and the disease is unlikely to cause any yield losses.

**Alto Registration in Peanuts**

As I mentioned above, Alto fungicide, which contains the a.i. cyproconazole, was recently registered for use in peanut for the control of leaf spot diseases and rust when applied twice at 5.5 fl oz/A or tank mixed at the 5.5 fl oz/A rate with Abound 2SC at 12 to 24 fl oz/A approximately 60 and 90 days after planting for the control of the above diseases and stem rot (white mold) as part of a season long disease management program. Refer to the Alto peanut supplemental label [http://www.cdms.net/LDat/lb85p004.pdf](http://www.cdms.net/LDat/lb85p004.pdf) for more information. Years ago, Alto was extensively screened on peanut, and proved to have excellent activity against leaf spot diseases and stem rot. Alto is a triazole fungicide and in areas where triazole-resistance in leaf spot fungi has been an issue, must be tank mixed with 0.75 to 1.0 pt/A of a chlorothalonil fungicide (Bravo Weather Stik, Bravo Ultrex, Echo, Equus, Chloronil, etc.) to insure effective leaf spot control.