



Lee County Ag Newsletter

Third Week of June 2023, Volume 23, Number 5

Crop Plant Pathology Dr. Bob Kemerait

Southern corn rust was confirmed in a second county yesterday. It has now been found in Grady and Clinch Counties. As you know, Grady and Clinch are both along the Georgia-Florida line which make sense. Conditions are favorable for spread. We will likely find more rust soon.

Corn growers who have sprayed a fungicide with mixed mode of action should get about 3 weeks of control. Will there be a need for a grower to spray a second time? Hopefully not but factors such as a) proximity to confirmed rust find, b) time since last application, and c) time remaining until hard-dough stage must be considered.

We have NOT found soybean rust anywhere in the Southeast, to include Georgia, that I know of yet. I am sure it is out there percolating somewhere. But I do not know where. At this point it is "watch and wait". But IF a grower is at R3 and IF he or she is putting out something like Dimilin, I would certainly tank mix a fungicide with it to take advantage of the trip.

Peanut diseases: Many growers have or should be starting fungicide programs for leaf spot control. Conditions now are near-perfect for start of leaf spot epidemics. rain splashed spores from the soil and debris to the leaves, initiating infection, as does the prolonged leaf wetness periods. Also, fungicides may not have adequate time to dry between rains IF the grower can get back into the fields. My suggestions are as follows:

- a. 25-30 days after planting and can get in the field? Important now to put a fungicide out for most growers. Given our conditions, though 1.5 pt/A of chlorothalonil is good, even better to mix some other fungicide with curative activity, examples include Alto and Dormark, to improve efficacy.
- b. Growers at this time can also use Aproach Prima and Absolute Maxx. These are appropriate fungicides but I do not like to see either used under too much leaf spot pressure.

- c. Grower who are 40 days or beyond and needing to apply their FIRST fungicide:
 - i. Leaf spot is the main threat now, though we are always aware of white mold. Cooler temperatures and heavy rains have likely slowed development of white mold.
 - ii. Lucento and Priaxor are fungicides that come to mind in this situation- good leaf spot control and some white mold activity. They work well for applications in the 45-day after planting arena.
 - iii. Now would not be a good time for chlorothalonil alone. I would proceed with extreme caution before using selections from "a" and "b" above. In doing so. consider Peanut Rx. If you are at "high" risk for leaf spot, do not do it. If you are at "moderate" risk" for leaf spot, consider what could happen if you cannot make a timely fungicide application in 2 weeks.
 - iv. Application of Excalia + a leaf spot material or Elatus + a leaf spot material could go out at 45 days, however given our current conditions I would rather see you save these guns (as with our other strong white mold products) for 60 days after planting.

Wet Weather Concerns - Part II (Prostko)

Much of Georgia continues to get hammered with frequent rainfall events. When will it end? Here are some answers to questions you might be getting:

1) How much has it rained?

Updated rainfall totals from June 12-June 21, 2023

2) What's my best peanut weed control recipe for a disaster field?

a) Apply Select 2EC (clethodim) @ 8-16 oz/A + COC @ 1% v/v then

b) 3 days after the Select application, apply the following combination: Cadre @ 4 oz/A + Cobra @ 12.5 oz/A + 2,4-DB @ 16 oz/A + any Group 15 herbicide (either Anthem Flex @ 3 oz/A or Dual Magnum @ 16 oz/A or Outlook @ 12.8 oz/A or Warrant @ 48 oz/A or Zidua SC @ 2.5 oz/A). Include NIS @ 0.25% v/v when using Anthem Flex, Warrant, or Zidua.

c) Costly for sure but desperate times require desperate measures!

3) Can I also add Strongarm to that mix?

Yes, I did that in 2022 to clean up a peanut field and observed no major problems. Check out the following pics:

4) Is there a shortage of Cobra (lactofen)?

I have heard from several growers that Cobra was not available. I contacted my inside sources at Valent and this situation should be remedied. A e-mail quote from my Valent contact yesterday: "Cobra being shipped this week so no excuses moving forward!"

5) Can peanut herbicides be applied aerially by plane or drone?

The short answer is yes (**but not Cadre. It does not have an aerial application label**) but I have some concerns. I have been conducting weed control research since 1987. During this 36 year time frame, I have never applied herbicides in water volumes less than 10 GPA. Coverage, crop injury, and efficacy are my concerns. There is a ton of work being conducted with drones but I have not seen a sufficient amount of replicated university data to confirm true weed control efficacy. But in this current rainy situation, perhaps something is better than nothing??????

6) What are the minimum labeled GPA requirements for aerial applications of peanut herbicides?

Butyrac 200 (2,4-DB) = 5 GPA; Classic = 3 GPA; Cobra = 7 GPA; Gramoxone = 5 GPA; Select = 3 GPA; Storm = 5 GPA; Ultra Blazer = 5 GPA

7) Is Classic still available for late-season Florida beggarweed control in peanuts?

Yes! Check out page 224 in 2023 UGA Pest Control Handbook for updated information about peanut cultivar tolerance to Classic.

https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/SB%2028-24_1.PDF

8) Is Gramoxone (paraquat) still labeled for use in peanuts in a non-selective applicator such as a rope-wick or weed wiper?

Yes! Check out page 224 in 2023 UGA Pest Control Handbook. Gramoxone applied in this fashion is very effective on Palmer amaranth, Florida beggarweed, and sicklepod.

https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/SB%2028-24_1.PDF

For more info:

TopCrop Super Sponge: <https://www.smucker.net/weed-wiper-products>

GrassWorks Weed Wiper: <https://grassworksmanufacturing.com/>

LMC-Cross Wick-Bar: <https://www.lmcag.com/>

Wet Weather Concerns (Prostko)

Over the past few days, many locations in south Georgia have received significant rainfall .

A few things to think about:

- 1) Keep an eye on rain-free periods for postemergence (POST) herbicides. For my crops, these are listed in the UGA Pest Control Handbook (Remarks and Precautions). If I am missing one, please let me know.
- 2) Cool, cloudy, wet weather has a significant influence on the cuticles of plant leaves (i.e. makes them thinner). Thus, pesticides applied during this type of weather can cause more crop injury symptoms.
- 3) Residual weed control will likely be compromised (shorter than normal). Applications of additional residual herbicides should be strongly considered (Anthem Flex, Dual Magnum, Outlook, Warrant, Zidua).
- 4) It is also very likely that some growers will not be able to get back into their fields on a timely basis to make POST herbicide applications. There are no POST herbicides, in any of my crops, that can consistently control a pigweed that is bigger than about 3-4" tall. ***Thus, applying herbicides to very large weeds (revenge spraying) is a waste of time and money!*** Hand-weeding, mechanical cultivation, non-selective applicators, and mowing are the only effective options for large weeds.
- 5) Since applications of POST herbicides will be delayed, experience tells me that many growers will want to apply broadleaf and grass herbicides together. Tank-mixing grass herbicides with broadleaf herbicides (Cadre + Select or 2,4-DB + Select), is labeled/legal but will often result in reduced grass control (~10-20%). Growers can increase the rate of the grass herbicide (within label) but I prefer a split application (grass herbicide first then broadleaf herbicide ~3-5 days later).

Pecan Crop Update

Written by
Lenny Wells
June 20, 2023

This is the time of year when I begin to get asked “What’s the Georgia crop going to be this year?” . That has always been a loaded question and I have come to the conclusion that there’s not a lot of good found in throwing a number out there. At best, its an educated, but still largely, a wild guess. So I am not going to put a number on the crop. What I will tell you is that the 2021 crop, according to USDA numbers, was officially 88.6 million lbs, the 2022 crop was 125.5 million lbs. Based on what I see out there, the 2023 crop set would fall between these two. It looks bigger than the 2021 crop and nowhere near as large as the 2022 crop. However, we are seeing tremendous scab pressure at the moment and it is happening at the worst possible time for the pecan crop. Almost daily rainfall for the last week and a half and rain forecasted daily for as far out as we can see during June as the nuts begin rapidly sizing is a recipe for disaster on susceptible varieties. This will almost assuredly lead to additional scab losses for the Georgia crop. The other thing that plays into the size of the crop is the vast pecan acreage we’ve planted over the last 13 years or so. Many of these orchards, even those planted 6-7 years ago are contributing significantly to the state crop now so if you are a grower who’s acreage is composed largely of old trees, which seem to be off across the state for the most part, you are going to think its a bad off year. We need to recognize that the younger trees are carrying the weight for the Georgia pecan crop now and this shifts our scale upward for both on and off years. Also, pecans are a global market at this point. The size of Georgia’s crop still certainly matters to the

market and where prices fall out but with Mexico and South Africa in the picture, it doesn't set the tone for pecan prices as much as it once did. Some people may take issue with this, but its a fact whether we like it or not. At this point the Georgia crop size is going to be determined by the amount of scab we end up with and how well growers are able to control the disease.

Managing Scab in Extreme Conditions

There are a few things to keep in mind when trying to control scab in the apocalyptic scab conditions we are dealing with.

1. The best options for scab control during the nut sizing period from June-August will be Miravis Top, Miravis Prime or Dodine (Elast). Growers should rotate either Miravis Top or Miravis Prime with some form of Dodine, whether you use dodine alone or tank mix it with Tin. Under regular conditions, you likely won't see a lot of difference in Miravist Top and Miravis Prime. Under the extreme conditions we are experiencing, I would say that if there is a scenario where the use of Miravis Prime would be justified, this is it. However, both products are excellent on nut scab. But DO NOT FAIL TO ROTATE these products with a Dodine application of some sort. If you use one of the Miravis products back to back to back, you are going to abuse this excellent product and at some point we will not get hte benefit from it that we currently enjoy. I know growers will be tempted to want to use "the best possible product" every time but I cannto over-emphasize the need to be good stewards of the chemistry we have for scab control. The dodine chemistry remains excellent and growers should not be afraid to rotate this with the Miravis products.
2. Tighten spray intervals. If you do not tighten your interval during extreme wet weather, it will not matter what fungicide you use. I know this is hard to do when it is raining daily but you have to keep the nuts covered and they are growing very rapidly. If you spray today there will be tissue there in 5 days that was not covered by today's spray so in wet weather, frequent applications (every 7-10 days) are required for effective scab control on susceptible varieties.
3. Use a surfactant with certain products. Under dry or even normal conditions, I don't think you get any economic benefit from using a surfactant. However, in wet weather, a surfactant can be a big help with products like Miravis Top or Miravis Prime because they may help the fungicide to stick on the nut surface better, spread over the nut surface better, or move into the nut tissue faster (depending on the surfactant used). All of this can help under wet conditions . The Miravis products should ideally have at least 5-6 hours of drying time before a rain. A surfactant may possibly give you a little room for error and speed that up. Dodine has surfactant properties itself, so a surfactant is not necessary with Dodine, however since it is a pure protectant, dodine (and tin) need 24 hrs for maximum rain-fastness. With any product, if you get rain within an hour of spraying, you need to re-spray eveything you put out in the last hour as soon as you can.

Stuart Issues

We are seeing some very strange things out there with Stuart trees. The most puzzling is a leaf drop that seems to be very common over in East Georgia, almost exclusively on Stuart, or at least that is the variety it is most often occuring on. This has been occuring for several weeks and we have

bounced around ideas regarding scab and stem phylloxera, among other theories but here seems to be no real pattern. The leaves are sometimes scabbed heavily and sometimes perfectly clean. Sometimes they are scorched and more often, not. We are investigating this issue to try and find out what is going on and will keep you posted here on any conclusions that are drawn.

Doug Collins
Lee County Extension Coordinator
P. O. Box 589
Leesburg, GA 31763
229-759-6025
229-759-3302-FAX
229-344-8031-cell
collinsd@uga.edu