



UGA extension

Ag Notes | Webster County and Stewart County | March 2016

Dates to Remember

April 5, 2016
Assistive Technology Expo
Tifton, GA

April 11, 2016
Beginner's Pecan Production Course
Tifton, GA

April 19, 2016
Tifton HERD Sale
Irwinville, GA

Vidalia Onions

\$10 for 10 pounds
Order through
Wednesday, April 20

Pick up scheduled for
Wednesday, May 11

Place your order now!!

4-H Donations

By Dr. Laura A. Griffeth, *County Extension Agent*

I'm very excited to have Samantha Barrett Pace in the Webster County office working as a 4-H Associate. She has lots of great ideas for 4-H programming and has gotten off to a great start with a 130% increase in cloverleafs attending project achievement. Another area where there is much interest from 4-H'ers is camp. Unfortunately Cloverleaf Camp at Camp Burton on Tybee Island this year costs \$315, which puts a large burden on some of our most interested 4-H'ers, large enough that they might not be able to attend. So I'm asking for donations that we can use to help offset a kid's camp costs or even completely pay their way. Any amount would be appreciated, and you can remain anonymous if desired. Also the Webster County 4-H Club is a recognized as a 501(c)(3) exempt organization and contributions may therefore be deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.



Help sponsor a kid's trip to camp or other 4-H activity!

Beginner's Pecan Production Course

By Dr. Laura A. Griffeth, *County Extension Agent*

April 11, 2016

UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center, Tifton, GA

Please Contact Debbie Rutland @ 229-386-3424 to RSVP

Refreshments & Lunch Provided

- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:10 Cost of Pecan Production, Lenny Wells, UGA Horticulture
- 9:30 Pecan Varieties, Patrick Conner, UGA Horticulture
- 10:15 Break
- 10:45 Pecan Irrigation, Lenny Wells, UGA Horticulture
- 11:15 Pecan Tree Planting & Establishment, Lenny Wells, UGA Horticulture
- 12:00 Lunch Meal Sponsored by Savage Equipment
- 1:00 Pecan Insect Management, Will Hudson, UGA Entomology
- 1:45 Pecan Fertilization, Lenny Wells, UGA Horticulture
- 2:30 Break
- 2:50 Pecan Disease Management, Jason Brock, UGA Plant Pathology
- 3:20 Pecan Weed Control, Timothy Grey, UGA Crop & Soil Science
- 4:00 Pecan Equipment, Lenny Wells, UGA Horticulture

Peanut Disease Notes

By Dr. Bob Kemerait, *Extension Plant Pathologist*

The very warm fall and early winter from 2015 and, now, 2016 could increase risk for disease outbreaks in peanut fields in at least a couple of ways. Warm conditions likely allowed a crop of “volunteer” peanuts following harvest of last season’s crop to develop in many fields. While cold weather has killed that “bonus” crop by now, the fungal pathogen *Rhizoctonia solani* could easily survive and revive on that crop residue where peanuts are planted behind peanuts in 2016, especially where reduced tillage is practiced. Such survival and revival increased risk to *Rhizoctonia* seedling disease, especially where soils are cooler and wetter at planting. Growers can reduce this risk by a) avoiding peanuts behind peanuts, b) delaying planting until soils are warmer, and c) insuring that seed is treated with a good fungicide and, in the worst-case scenarios, using an in-furrow fungicide like Abound.

In fields where the root-knot nematode is a problem, unusually warm temperatures this season were such that these nematodes could have continued to feed late into the fall, thus further increasing populations in the field. Growers should do their very best to avoid planting peanuts in again this year in a field planted to peanuts last season, ESPECIALLY if nematodes have been problematic.

1. Cooler and wetter soils at planting will increase the risk to seedling disease caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*. This disease is more problematic in fields with reduced tillage. The risk to this disease can be reduced with crop rotation, waiting to plant in warmer soils and use of seed treatments and, perhaps, Abound in-furrow.
2. Cooler and wetter soils at planting increase the risk to *Cylindrocladium* black rot (CBR). Though this disease has not been especially problematic in recent years, this could change. Growers who are concerned with the threat of CBR in their field should consider Proline (5.7 fl oz/A) in-furrow at planting.
3. Cooler and wetter soils at planting could complicate the application of the fumigant Telone II which is a very effective treatment for management of plant-parasitic nematodes. Telone II is injected into the soil as a liquid, but under proper soil conditions rapidly volatilizes to a gas and is dissolved in soil moisture where fumigation occurs. When soils are too wet, this volatilization and fumigation is much less likely to occur properly, reducing the effectiveness of the treatment. Growers planning to use Telone in 2016 should watch soil conditions carefully and be prepared to fumigate when conditions are favorable.

Tropical System Rainfall Rule of Thumb

By Dr. Laura A. Griffeth, *County Extension Agent*

Our Extension Climatologist had an interesting fact in an online class last week about a rule of thumb for determining how much rainfall to expect from a tropical system. This could be helpful if the prediction of a La Nina proves true. If that happens, there are typically more Atlantic tropical systems.

Expected rainfall = 100/forward speed of system

A system moving at 20 mph would be expected to put out 5 inches of rain near the center of the system. A system moving at 5 mph could put out 20 inches of rain. That’s what happened in 1994 with Alberto.

Assistive Technology Expo

By Dr. Laura A. Griffeth, *County Extension Agent*

UGA is hosting an Assistive Technology Expo in Tifton Georgia. You will be able to see tractor lifts, automatic gates, UTV’s and many more items that can make farming easier for individuals with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

There is not a fee to attend.

When: April 5, 2016 from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm
Where: UGA Tifton Convention Center North Parking Lot (We will move the auditorium inside if there is rain)
How to Register: Send an email to farmagain@uga.edu and let them know your name, phone number, and how many people are attending.



Contact the Extension Office

Dr. Laura A. Griffeth
County Extension Agent
229.828.2325 (Phone)
lgriffet@uga.edu

General Information

Webster County Extension Office
P.O. Box 89
Preston, GA 31824
229.828.2325 (Phone)
229.828.5901 (Fax)
uge4307@uga.edu

Peanut Pointers

March 2016 – Volume 53 Number 3

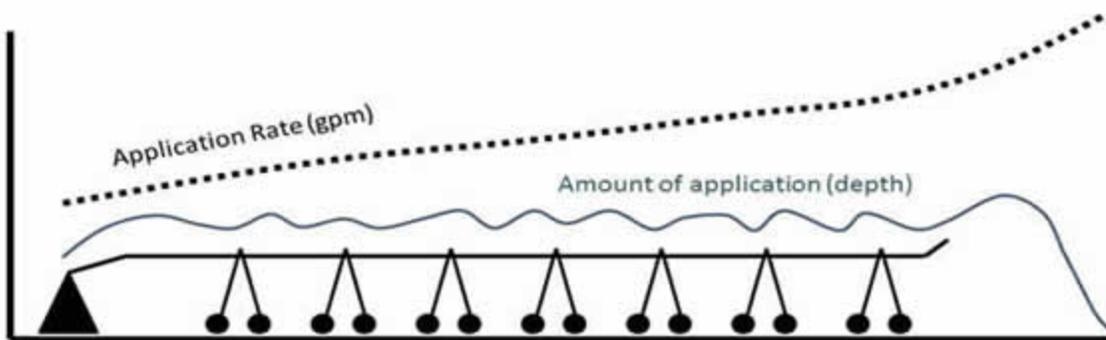
Dr. Scott Monfort, editor

Irrigation System Prep For Peanut Production

Dr. Wesley Porter, Extension Irrigation Specialist

There is about a month before everyone begins to get serious about getting their peanuts planted. Thus, now is the best time to do routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, specifically irrigation systems to ensure they are top shape once the crop is planted. Once the crop is planted, the irrigation systems will be needed, and a lot of them will run near continuously during times of no rainfall. There are two important factors that need to be considered before you get your peanuts planted. One is an overall irrigation system check, and the other is specifically focusing on uniformity and distribution of your system. First go through a check list that includes all main components on your irrigation system to ensure they are working properly. Some of these components can include but do not have to be limited to the power units, pumping system, intake line, pipes and drains, electrical system, system alignment, safeties, tires, gear boxes and drive shafts and lines, and the switches on the auto stop feature. Once you have checked all of these components, now it is time to start the system and finish checking components. Start up the pump and check the line pressure, flow, sprinklers, end gun and booster pump, regulators, drain valves, check for visible leaks, and test the auto stop and reverse features. The system flowrate and application rate are represented in Figure 1. It is important to remember due to increasing travel speed as we move to the end of the pivot the system flow rate will go up, but the application depth should remain consistent. This is achieved with properly sized sprinkler packages.

It is important to note that it can be very difficult to detect differences between individual sprinklers and banks of sprinklers on a pivot visually, so it is strongly recommended that an application uniformity test be performed on the center pivot to detect any discrepancies along the tower length. A UGA Factsheet titled Evaluating and Interpreting Application Uniformity of Center Pivot Irrigation Systems is a very good step by step guide to completing this process. By following these suggestions you should have a properly operating pivot ready to go for the upcoming production season.



Application Rate and Depth

Timely Notes on Disease Management for 2016

Dr. Bob Kemeraite, Extension Plant Pathologist

Though still a few weeks away from the general start of the planting season, there are issues regarding management of diseases and nematodes affecting peanut that deserve attention now.

- Choosing the right variety.** Most of our acreage will be planted in 'Georgia-06G' and this continues to be an excellent variety. I recognize that seed for 'Georgia-12Y' is generally unavailable; however, I encourage growers who are concerned about white mold to plant some if they can. Likewise, growers with root-knot nematode problems are encouraged to consider planting at least some of their acreage in 'Tifguard' or 'Georgia-14N', remembering that Georgia-14N is a later-maturing variety. Growers are encouraged to consult the 2016 version of 'Peanut Rx' to determine the predicted risk to tomato spotted wilt, white mold and leaf spot diseases given the variety they plant and their production practices. With this information they can make a better informed decision on their disease management program.
- Decisions regarding nematode control are critical now.** Growers who anticipate a problem with peanut root-knot nematodes and who plan to apply a nematicide will likely use Telone II or Velum Total. The primary consideration in choosing between a resistant variety, Telone II, and Velum Total is the size of the population of nematodes in a field. The economic threshold number, that "magic" number that draws the line between when damage from the nematodes is worth treating and when it is not, is "10/100cc soil". Velum Total (18 fl oz/A) is generally recommended where a grower would have used Temik 15G, 10 lb/A at-plant, which would coincide with "low-to-moderate" nematode populations. Defining "low-to-moderate" populations is unsettling, but I would say anywhere from 10-100 root-knot nematodes per 100cc soil in a FALL-collected sample would be "in the ballpark". As numbers increase beyond 100/100cc soil, I think a resistant variety or Telone II becomes increasingly important. Also, given that the root-knot nematodes are generally "clumped" in a field, it is likely that even a field described as "low-to-moderate" will have significant "hot spots" in it. Telone II should be applied in-row at 4.5 gal/A in-row 10-14 days ahead of planting with special awareness of soil conditions during this El Niño season. The possibility of frequent rain events could make fumigation challenging. An insecticide for management of thrips is still required when Telone is used but not when Velum Total is applied. Velum Total should be applied at 18 fl oz/A for peanuts, and the product can be mixed with other fungicides and inoculants without concern. Whether choosing Telone II or Velum Total, accurate calibration and precise application are critical for maximum success. Growers should ensure that equipment is properly put together and tested for calibration.
- By now, most growers are aware that Tilt-Bravo will be generally unavailable this season,** and the issues concerning sale of peanuts treated with propiconazole (the active ingredient in Tilt) to the European market could affect other products as well. For example, it is not clear how Artisan, a combination of flutolanil and propiconazole will be sold this season; however, Convoy (flutolanil alone) will be in ready supply. Syngenta will likely recommend a tank-mix of Bravo and Alto to replace Tilt-Bravo; products like Priaxor will also perform well in this early-season spot. As we move beyond planting, additional discussion regarding leaf spot management will be proposed.
- White mold is of special concern this year,** both because of anticipated short-rotations and because of the severe outbreak we had last year. Growers are reminded that early-season applications of Proline and, perhaps, Elatus can help to manage this important disease. Banded applications are typically made approximately 3-5 weeks after planting. **NO FUNGICIDE PROGRAM CAN MAKE UP FOR SHORT ROTATIONS.** However using the right products at the right time sure can help.

Quick update on El Nino

Pam Knox, Agricultural Climatologist

The climate of Georgia this winter has been strongly influenced by El Nino, which is related to cooler and wetter conditions than usual in the Southeast in the winter and spring when an El Nino is occurring. While December did not follow the pattern this year, with much above temperatures, the rest of winter has settled into a more typical El Nino regime. This is expected to continue through spring, which may mean wet conditions in the fields for the next few months. This may lead to delays in planting which could hurt yield, according to the peanut planting date tool at www.agroclimate.org.

El Nino is already starting to diminish and is expected to return to neutral conditions by May or June before swinging to the opposite phase, La Nina, later this summer. La Nina is associated with dry and warm conditions, which could hurt crop development later in the growing season, but could help with harvest. The only exception is in areas that are hit by tropical storms, which are often more numerous in La Nina years. If a La Nina does develop, next winter is likely to be warmer and drier than usual, leading to the possibility of drought returning to the Southeast in 2017.

AgLogic 15G Update

By Dr. Bob Kemeraite, Extension Plant Pathologist, and Dr. Laura Griffeth, County Extension Agent

I know everybody is excited about having an aldicarb product back as a tool to battle nematodes, thrips, and everything else we used Temik for. However, we need to be cautious about using this new product. Dr. Kemeraite sent the agents the following information. I also included a Question and Answer handout from Ag Logic.

We will use on cotton and peanuts. I (Dr. Bob) do not know the price – yet. I have not tested it. I do expect it to perform very similar to Temik 15G, but, again, I have not tested it. It will be in short-supply this year. Growers who are able to get a hold of some will be required to take a 20-question test with the dealer who will sell them the product. I am glad we have multiple options with which to battle nematodes.

Peanut Insects

By Dr. Mark Abney, Extension Entomologist

Insect management may not be the first thing on growers' minds now, but it is a good time to think about the potential value of having an experienced scout or consultant monitor pest populations in peanut in 2016. Most of Georgia's peanut acreage is not scouted in any kind of systematic way for insect pests. The result is that insect management decisions are very often based on incomplete information. Fields are treated at sub-threshold levels or not treated in a timely manner when damaging insect populations appear. Extension agents do a very good job of alerting growers when pest problems are building, and a lot of growers depend on this information to guide their insect management activities. Nevertheless, there is no substitute for a weekly report of what is happening in each field. Tank mixing a pyrethroid insecticide with a fungicide spray "just because there might be some insects in the field" is a strategy that we need to put behind us. While pyrethroids have a place in peanut insect management, they should be used with caution and with knowledge of what pest species are present. Many of the caterpillars that commonly occur in peanut are not effectively controlled with pyrethroids, and this class of chemistry is hard on beneficial insects. Selecting the right insecticide for the insect or complex of insects that are present in the field will result in better efficacy and return on investment.

Thrips will be the first insect challenge most growers will face in 2016, and the most commonly used at plant insecticide options include phorate (Thimet), imidacloprid (Admire Pro), and thiamethoxam (CruiserMaxx Peanut seed treatment). While the Mid-South and Mid-Atlantic states have experienced control problems related to neonicotinoid resistant thrips, no control failures due to resistance have been reported so far in Georgia. This does not mean that there are no resistant thrips populations in Georgia or that we have no reason for concern. At this point, all we can do is make growers aware of the situation and continue to monitor fields for thrips control problems.

Growers who have suffered significant losses to burrower bug in recent years may be asking if there are any new data or management options for this pest. Results of a 2015 on-farm trial in Brooks County strongly reinforced what we already knew about the potential benefit of deep tillage prior to planting for burrower bug management. The research showed no benefit of Turbo-till compared to strip till directly into cotton residue, but a significant reduction in damage was observed where the soil was deep turned. Insecticides did not provide the same level of damage reduction that was observed for deep tillage, though Lorsban 15G applied to peanut in August in an on-farm trial in Emanuel County did significantly reduce damage compared to the untreated check. Growers who are firmly committed to conservation tillage will not be pleased with the recommendation that they deep till their land, but for now this is the best way we have to reduce the risk of burrower bug damage. We will be conducting additional research in 2016 to evaluate inherent host plant resistance in commercially available varieties, to evaluate efficacy of night time insecticide applications, and to monitor flight activity over time.

Q&A

AgLogic™ 15G Aldicarb Pesticide

Q. What is AgLogic Chemical, LLC?

AgLogic Chemical, LLC is an affiliate of MEY Corporation and holds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration for AgLogic™ 15G brand aldicarb pesticide and is currently in the process of returning it to the market for the 2016 growing season. Bayer CropScience formerly marketed a similar product under the brand name of Temik.

Q. What is AgLogic™ 15G aldicarb pesticide?

AgLogic™ 15G is a carbamate pesticide that contains the active ingredient aldicarb that controls nematodes, a wide range of piercing and sucking pests and certain chewing pests through direct contact with treated soil and systemically from residues absorbed and translocated by the developing root system.

Q. What crops are currently labeled for AgLogic™ 15G?

Currently labeled crops include cotton, peanuts, soybeans, sugarbeets, drybeans and sweet potatoes.

Q. What pests are listed for control on the AgLogic™ 15G label?

Pests controlled include nematodes, thrips, aphids, leafhoppers, lygus, whiteflies and mites. Check the product label for the full list of pests controlled.

Q. In what states is AgLogic™ 15G labeled?

For the 2016 season, AgLogic™ 15G will only be labeled in the state of Georgia due to limited availability. Plans are in place to label the product in additional states for the 2017 season.

Q. When will AgLogic™ 15G be available?

Product will be available only to Georgia growers starting in March and continuing through the planting season. AgLogic™ 15G will be available in 2016 initially as a 15% corn cob grit formulation and later as a 15% granular gypsum product.

Q. What will the AgLogic™ 15G supply be for 2016?

In 2016, product volumes will be limited to Georgia Restricted Use Pesticide licensees to ensure a coordinated, well-controlled product launch.

Q. Is AgLogic™ 15G expected to perform comparably to its predecessor Temik?

AgLogic™ 15G is manufactured in the U.S. to the highest possible standards and similar to Bayer CropScience's predecessor product, Temik 15G. Its performance is expected to be comparable to Temik 15G.

Q. Can I use the same application equipment for AgLogic™ 15G that I used for Temik?

Yes. The same type of application equipment can be used for AgLogic™ 15G that was used for Temik 15G. However, all equipment must be checked and recalibrated to ensure proper flow of the product.

Q. Why did AgLogic, LLC decide to bring aldicarb back to the market?

AgLogic, LLC decided to bring back this product because of its unique and unmatched pest control activity, its documented record of superior pest control, its outstanding fit in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs and strong industry wide support for its continued use.

Q. How will AgLogic™ 15G be packaged?

The corn cob grit formulation will be packaged in two 30-lb. bags per box. Later, the gypsum formulation will be sold and distributed in 45 lb. boxes.

Q. Where will AgLogic™ 15G be manufactured?

AgLogic™ 15G will be manufactured in the southeastern U.S. It is expected to create a substantial number of jobs within the manufacturing facility and other jobs in sales, marketing and support positions.

Q. Are there special requirements a grower has to meet to be able to buy AgLogic™ 15G?

Yes. In 2016, growers must have a current Georgia restricted use pesticide license and pass an on-line certification course in order to purchase AgLogic™ 15G.

Q. Why is a certification course required to buy and use AgLogic™ 15G?

AgLogic Chemical, LLC is firmly committed to the conscientious labeled use and diligent stewardship of AgLogic™ 15G brand aldicarb pesticide in order to ensure the continued long-term availability of this valuable pest management product. The dealer and grower certification courses are the first steps in implementing the precautions and measures deemed important to ensure proper distribution, application, use, storage and if necessary disposal of the product.

Q. How does a grower become certified to purchase AgLogic™ 15G?

In 2016, contact your local Georgia CNI dealer to discuss product supply and the certification process.

Q. Where do I find technical, sales support and additional information for AgLogic™ 15G?

Product support is available at CNI, its authorized dealers and AgLogic Chemical, LLC.

AgLogic Chemical, LLC
121 S. Estes Dr., Ste. 101
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-932-5800
www.aglogicchemical.com

CNI
800 Business Park Drive
Highway 82 West
Leesburg, GA 31763
229-883-7050
www.cniag.com

Fungus Destroying Banana Crop, Scientists Race to Find Cure

Scidev.net

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Scientists in developing countries are scrambling to find a cure for a devastating fungus that threatens to wipe out the global banana trade and plunge millions of farmers into poverty. Around the world, banana farmers are fighting a losing battle against Tropical Race 4, a soil fungus that kills Cavendish bananas, the only type grown for the international market. The disease was first spotted in the early 1990s in Malaysia but has now started to wipe out crops in large parts of South-East Asia as well as in Africa and the Middle East.

The Tropical Race 4 pathogen, a new strain of what is known as Panama disease, escaped from Asia in 2013. By 2015, it had infected plantations in Jordan and Mozambique, as well as Lebanon and Pakistan, with many scientists fearing an epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. Tropical Race 4, a variant of the *Fusarium oxysporum* fungus, is transmitted by infected plant matter, but also from the clothes and shoes of plantation workers.

The disease can be devastating for small banana farmers, who provide much of the 17 million tons of Cavendish bananas traded every year – mostly to rich countries where the fruit is popular as a healthy snack. Bananas are also a staple food in many tropical countries and the main source of protein for more than half a billion people around the world.

In Indonesia and Malaysia, the fungus wiped out over 12,000 acres of Cavendish bananas in 1992 and 1993, says Agustin Molina, who leads the banana research efforts in the Asia-Pacific region for Bioversity International, a global research

organization. Molina and his team try to work with local farmers to raise awareness of the threat and contain the spread of the fungus. He advocates footbaths, regulating the movement of workers, and tough quarantines for seedlings and other imported plant matter. But despite such efforts, Tropical Race 4 has crossed the Pacific Ocean. With the fungus now in Mozambique, other East African countries largely dependent on Cavendish exports – such as Uganda – fear for their crop.

The reason for Tropical Race 4's rapid spread is globalized trade. Uganda, the world's third largest banana producer, imports second-hand trucks and farming equipment from China, but these are rarely disinfected before shipping – putting the country at risk. Likewise, Sudan exports bananas by truck to Lebanon and Oman, while seedlings grown in Jordan or Pakistan are sold to Mozambique.

Once the fungus has infected a plant, it spreads to its xylem, the tubular tissue that transports water around the plant from the roots. These tubes get clogged, and the plant wilts and dies. The fungus continues to feed on the dead tissue and releases spores that enter the soil and attach to any material that comes in contact with the plant.

Sub-Saharan African scientists are stepping up research on the disease in the hope of preventing its continuing spread. But funding is scarce and local governments are not yet sufficiently aware. At present, a laboratory at Stellenbosch University in South Africa is the only one in Sub-Saharan Africa that can test for the presence of

Countries affected by the Tropical Race 4 disease



Tropical Race 4. More long-term plans could include research both on genetic modification to produce fungus-resistant plants and on other banana species to replace Cavendish in international markets.

However, the fungus poses the greatest threat to Latin America and the Caribbean. The region is responsible for 25 per cent of bananas grown worldwide and 80 per cent of global exports. But local farmers are still reeling from a previous infection, this one caused by Tropical Race 1, the first instance of Panama disease. Panama disease emerged in the 1950s in Latin America, nearly wiping out global trade in the Gros Michel banana, a predecessor to the Cavendish. As with Tropical Race 4, the fungus's spores can survive in the soil for decades.

The Central America-based International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) advocates moving away from the current heavy reliance on Cavendish. There are almost 1,000 different banana species. If more of these were grown for sale, farmers would be less affected by the disease's arrival, while the fungus would also have less chance to spread. But the preferences of consumers, mostly in Europe and the United States, restrict these options. The Cavendish, which makes up 47 percent of all bananas grown globally, is what many customers think the fruit should be: large, long and yellow. Because of this, farmers fear buyers will snub local varieties, which might be smaller, savory, or even red or green. With little international action, the responsibility to find a solution, or at least a coping strategy, for Tropical Race 4 lies with scientists from the Global South – Africa, Central and Latin America, and most of Asia.