

January 2005



# NEW PEANUT PRODUCERS' TOP TEN LIST

## Preplant

### 1. Field Selection / Rotation:

Peanuts require well-drained land and do best on soils with a sandy surface. Avoid fields with recent soybean history as best you can and eliminate soybeans from the rotation in the future. Sustainable peanut production requires a minimum of 2 years (3 years better) of cotton or corn (no legumes) in between peanut crops.

### 2. Soil test:

- Use the **Peanut Fertility Check List** to compare soil test values to sufficiency levels for all nutrients. **Zinc can severely stunt or kill peanuts.** Raise pH to reduce toxicity risk in high Zn fields. Soil calcium levels of 600 lb/ac and Ca to K ratio of 3:1 or higher are desirable. Correct with lime if pH allows. See the peanut fertility check list for complete fertility recommendations.

## At-Plant

### 3. Get them inoculated:

Use only liquid in-furrow inoculants; they have been most consistent and are less likely to stop-up. Inoculants are live bacteria; handle with care to keep them alive. Make sure the stream hits the center of the open furrow and gets into moisture. Use 5 gal minimum.

### 4. Reduce tomato spotted wilt virus risk:

- Plant resistant varieties to the extent possible. NC V11 and Ga. Green are the best all around Virginia and runner type respectively and both also have some TSWV resistance.
- Avoid April planting. The first week of May still has increased virus risk, but we need to get started planting large acreages. The optimum planting window is about 5-25 May.
- Get a consistent, uniformly emerged stand, target is 4 plants/row ft. (need 6 seed/ft., or at least 5/ft. on large-seeded Va. types).
- Control thrips with in-furrow Thimet 5 lb or Temik 5-7 lb.
- Strip tillage reduces tomato spotted wilt.

## 0-45 DAP

### 5. Establish and maintain weed control:

- Valor (3 oz) is recommended for severe pigweed pressure. Valor must be applied within 2 days of planting; preferably watered in. Prowl/Sonolan or Dual can be tank-mixed. Do not plant shallower than 1.5" to avoid Valor injury.
- The first flush of weeds may need Gramoxone (+ Basagran or Storm) treatment before Cadre application (30-35 DAP).

## Bloom

### 6. Give them calcium:

- All Virginia type peanuts should get 300 lb/ac Ca (1500 lb landplaster) at blooming.
- Calcium should be available in the pegging zone when the first pods begin to form.
- It's better to be early with land plaster than late!

55 DAP

**7. Prevent foliar and soil disease:**

Although peanuts on “new” land should be relatively free of diseases, severe leaf spot and white mold loss can still occur. White mold and CBR particularly occur in fields with a soybean history. Peanuts have to be protected from a complex of soil and foliar diseases with a preventative program. Start leaf spot treatment no later than 45 DAP and make sure a white mold treatment is applied no later than 60 DAP. See the Production Guide for recommended programs.

60 DAP

**8. Irrigation management:**

- Peanut is an indeterminate, drought-tolerant crop, but irrigation can be critical to maximize returns from calcium, activate herbicides, and move fungicides into the soil.
- Irrigation also reduces insect damage and **most importantly, prevents aflatoxin**.
- The critical water use period is during pod fill, approximately 60-110 DAP. A soil temperature model (Irrigator Pro) or rule of thumb method (see Peanut Money Maker Guide) can be used to schedule.

25 July - 30 August

**9. Check for worms:**

- Cutworms occasionally defoliate peanuts in late June or early July.
- Corn earworms, followed by fall armyworms, feed on peanut primarily from the last week of July through August. Velvetbean caterpillars sometimes strip peanuts in the lower part of the state in late Sept. - Oct.)
- Don't over-react, it's not cotton. Fully lapped, unstressed peanuts can tolerate 8 worms/ft. The threshold is 4 worms per ft. on unlapped or stressed peanuts.
- There are some serious soil pests (pod-feeders), but they are best managed with irrigation.

135 DAP

**10. Don't Lose it all digging time:**

**Timing:** Medium maturity Virginia types generally reach harvest maturity in about 135 DAP under typical S. C. growing conditions. But many practical considerations figure into when the first field is dug, to include: vine health, acreage, equipment availability, when you started planting, and weather predictions. Runner types are more forgiving and can be allowed to stay in the ground longer, sometimes over 150 days.

- Start spot checking maturity at about 120 DAP. Use the tailgate hull scrape method (see this and other techniques in the Peanut Money Maker Production Guide) to sort pods into color piles and determine which fields should be dug first.

- Rules of thumb: When the orange and brown-black pods combined are 65% of the sample, the field should at least make a 70 TSMK grade. When the brown-black pile is the biggest pile on the tailgate, the sample is fully mature - but practical considerations sometimes prevent waiting on full maturity, particularly in the first field to be dug.

**Digger operation:** At this point it is still possible to mess up a great crop. **Staying on the row** with the digger is a must. Matching digger ground speed to shaker speed, digger running depth, and soil conditions are also critical.

---

Prepared by: Jay W. Chapin and James S. Thomas, Edisto Research and Education Center, 64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817. 803-284-3343-226 email: [jchapin@clemson.edu](mailto:jchapin@clemson.edu) Web: <http://virtual.clemson.edu/groups/peanuts/>

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture and South Carolina Counties. Issued in Furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

*Public Service Activities*