INTRODUCTION

The keys to high quality, two-ton plus peanuts are:

1. Well drained soil
2. Suitable rotation lengths and rotation crops – cotton or corn and other grasses
3. Timely water during pod fill
4. Good harvest weather
5. Timely management – especially when and how they’re dug

The factor that growers often have the most control over is #5 – timely management. Peanut is a relatively high-input, high management row crop. But profit is not necessarily determined by spending more money or adding one more product to the spray tank that “might help”. It’s about doing the fundamentals on time and getting the most out of every dollar invested.

This book is a guide for making timely peanut management decisions. The intention is to lay out a step-by-step game plan for peanut production under South Carolina conditions and to provide growers, county agents, private consultants and industry representatives with a reference that will answer most practical questions about peanut production.

Where possible, information is summarized in table format (Fertility Checklist, Guide to Peanut Fungicides, etc.) to present topics briefly but in sufficient detail. Summaries of the most important steps are also given in the Top Ten List and Peanut Management Calendar on the final pages of this guide.

Changes have to be made every year because peanut management is a moving target, and new and useful information continues to be gathered. Interactions change over time in a complex interaction of plants, diseases, insects, pesticides, soils and weather. Comments and suggestions to continually improve this production plan are always welcome.

What’s New for the 2019 Edition?
Changes to this year’s production guide include updates to the sections on Varieties, Budgets and on Weed and Disease Management (fungicide products and efficacies). A table on fungicide rainfast times has been added, and a new section on Peanut Combine Field Capacities has been added, and several resources have been listed, including the Clemson Precision Ag conveyor speed calculator.

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