Coming into 2018, South Carolina peanut acres are anticipated to be a little lower, in and around 20%. While the elimination of generic base may have contributed a little to this, I am optimistic that in future seasons this will lead to better contract prices for farmers and add more buffer room to farm budgets. Along these lines, less planted peanut acres this year may end up helping to somewhat reduce the impact of possible shortages of chlorothalonil (Bravo) and tebuconazole (generic Folicur) on peanut disease management.

**In-Furrow Options**

Several important management decisions are made even before the first peanut seed goes in the ground. These include rotation length and crops, tillage method, planting date, and which variety will go in which field. When it comes time for the hoppers to be loaded with seed, two additional items are more or less staples at planting time: peanut inoculant and an in-furrow insecticide. The importance of healthy peanut inoculant in-furrow at planting on new ground cannot be overstated, and it is good on all acres including those with a history of peanut production. Use of in-furrow insecticides overall target thrips, which can damage and stunt young growing peanuts and transmit spotted wilt. Among the options for in-furrow insecticides, the main players currently are Admire Pro (imidacloprid), AgLogic (aldicarb), Thimet (phorate) and Velum Total (imidacloprid + fluopyram). AgLogic is still in somewhat limited supply and also has nematicidal activity, with a ballpark cost of $42 for a 7 lb/A thrips rate. The additional fluopyram component in Velum Total adds both nematicide and fungicide activity to the insecticide action of the imidacloprid. Accordingly, Velum Total has a larger price tag than straight imidacloprid like Admire Pro, being roughly $36/application (18 fl oz/A) for Velum compared to Admire Pro's $17/application (10 fl oz/A). Thimet comes in at about $16/application (4.7 lb/A). Roughly, for an application of Velum Total to payoff, it should bring a yield increase of at least 95 lb/A (assuming $425 per ton contract) over what Admire Pro would do. So far, thankfully, issues with root knot nematode affecting peanut in SC have been rare. Each field can be a little different, and situations and experiences are not always the same. Included in the table are some ballpark numbers on how three of these in-furrow insecticides performed in available test data. Varieties were roughly placed into three susceptibility groups. The Moderate group included Georgia 06G and Georgia 09B, the Susceptible group included TUFRunner 511, FloRun 157 and CHAMPS, and the Resistant group included Bailey, Sullivan, TifNV-High O/L, Georgia 13M, Florida-07, Emery and Georgia 12Y. This data did not have resistant varieties treated with Velum Total. With resistant varieties, the choice of in-furrow insecticide did not have a significant bearing on yield. Over the data for the Moderate and Susceptible groups, Thimet generally performed better than Admire Pro, with this being noticed more in the Susceptible group data. Any examined treatment was better than the untreated check in those two groups. Velum Total performed better than Admire Pro in the Susceptible group data, but this was not observed for the Moderate group. In many of these tests, there was an intentional effort to try to create moderate to high thrips and spotted wilt risk. Accordingly, actively integrating multiple practices to reduce the amount of thrips and spotted wilt risk potential creates a slightly different environment in which the yield differences between different treatments may not exactly mirror the figures in the table. No single pesticide is perfect in every situation, and just like the fine print in an advertisement, individual mileage may vary. For situations and fields similar to the ones used in these tests (nematodes not really an issue and early season leaf spot pressure generally not present above average values), Velum Total was in most cases not observed to contribute an improvement over Admire Pro or Thimet. If early season leaf spot risk is a

concern, a banded application (Proline, for example) 21 to 35 days after planting or a broadcast application near 30 days can help address this. I hope everyone has a smooth planting season and a great year!

Comparison of spotted wilt and yield performance for several in-furrow insecticides.

| Spotted wilt susceptibility | Comparison[†] | Spotted wilt difference (%) | Significance[††] | Yield difference (lb/A) | Significance[††] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Moderate*** | **Admire Pro – Thimet** | 10.4 | *** | -187 | * |
| | **VT – Thimet** | 12.8 | *** | -365 | *** |
| | **Admire Pro – VT** | -2.4 | N.S. | 179 | N.S. |
| | **Admire Pro – check** | 1.1 | N.S. | 242 | ** |
| | **VT – check** | 3.5 | N.S. | 63 | N.S. |
| | **Thimet – check** | -9.3 | *** | 428 | *** |
| ***Susceptible*** | **Admire Pro – Thimet** | 11.6 | *** | -222 | ** |
| | **VT – Thimet** | 10.3 | *** | 7 | N.S. |
| | **Admire Pro – VT** | 1.3 | N.S. | -229 | * |
| | **Admire Pro – check** | 7.0 | *** | 90 | N.S. |
| | **VT – check** | 5.8 | ** | 319 | ** |
| | **Thimet – check** | -4.5 | ** | 312 | *** |
| ***Resistant*** | **Admire Pro – Thimet** | 4.7 | ** | -133 | N.S. |
| | **Admire Pro – check** | 3.4 | N.S. | 119 | N.S. |
| | **Thimet – check** | -1.4 | N.S. | 252 | N.S. |

[†] Admire Pro (imidacloprid or generics); Thimet (phorate); check = untreated control; VT = Velum Total (imidacloprid + fluopyram). A negative number indicates the value of the second treatment was greater than the value of the first treatment.

[††] N.S. = *P* value $\geq$ 0.1; * = $P < 0.1$; ** = $P < 0.05$; *** = $P < 0.01$.

20 relevant studies for Moderate and Susceptible spotted wilt comparisons; 10 studies for Resistant spotted wilt comparisons; 18 relevant studies for Moderate and Susceptible yield comparisons; 7 studies for Resistant yield comparisons. Not all treatments were present in all studies.