

The 2018 growing season in South Carolina was good for some and challenging for many others. If the year was a dish on a menu, it might have been a sampler platter of conditions that included some normal weather, times where it was too dry, conditions where fields were too wet, with visits from two hurricanes and frost to top it off. Contract prices were not particularly forgiving on production budgets, and overall planted acres in the state were down by about 35,000 acres compared to 2017. While it is difficult to say for certain what will happen in 2019 with all the wheels that are in motion, hopefully growing conditions will be more favorable and crop prices will improve.

Each year or situation has its challenges, but there are also always things to be thankful for. One of the things I am thankful for is being able to help when possible, and for situations that are beyond our ability to immediately change in the present year, learning where we can from our experience to be helpful in the future. We are familiar with the importance of rotating fields out of peanut to protect yield potential and reduce pest buildup, and sometimes the way we look at a field is important too. If a field is divided into smaller portions to help with farm management considerations or logistics, the areas of a field can affect each other. If Section A is planted to peanuts in one year and Section B had heavy leaf spot pressure when planted to peanuts in a previous year, the current season's peanuts in Section A have been seen to have much more leaf spot infection closer to Section B, even if the current Section A was rotated out of peanut for two or three years. By all means, dividing fields and having different sections under different crops can be great and does not need to end. As long as we are aware of a possible risk, we are better able to address it. The same has happened for fields that have no history of peanut production. Spores can blow in from nearby fields if they had heavy leaf spot pressure in previous years or if volunteers were present following peanuts. Instead of disease, if we are planting in a new field usually we more readily think about making sure we get the seed inoculated to make the most of the yield potential a new field typically provides. In a new field, good inoculation often adds more than 1000 lb/A. Along with this, proper calibration of equipment helps get the material where it needs to be. Liquid inoculants tend to be somewhat more consistent, and combining two different inoculants when planting a new field helps buffer us from one having gone bad. If dry inoculants are used, check the planter regularly to ensure hoppers and delivery tubes haven't stopped up. Getting a soil sample from each field, particularly if this is the first time working with a specific field, is invaluable in helping identify possible issues before they become costly problems, with just a few examples including elevated zinc, adequate pH, and, while more rarely an issue, K levels (not too low for deficiency and not too high for Ca ratio to prevent absorption and pops).

Like the 1960's song "It takes two", some products can work better when combined with other products. One example is with micronized sulfur (Microthiol Disperss) which has been around and labeled on peanut for a while. By itself, it isn't too exciting or effective for leaf spot control. However, combinations of 5 lb/A Microthiol Disperss (\$6/A) with something like Provost Opti 10.7 fl oz/A (\$18/A) significantly improved leaf spot management compared to either product alone. Aside from the efficacy, the cost of the combination is also good news. Another product that apparently helps more than previously thought is Thimet. Thimet has been known to be great for reducing tomato spotted wilt virus infections, but we also have repeated data showing that it actually helps significantly with improving late leaf spot management. Also good news

considering other in-furrow options or combinations could run double the price in order to have activity against both thrips and leaf spot.

Varieties

The Blackville Virginia type variety trial was planted 16 May 2018, inverted 142 DAP 5 October and combined 15 October. Inversion was delayed approximately one week due to rains. Span-17 (advertised as a Spanish variety) was included in this test since its maturity is approximately 130-135 days. Most varieties did not develop white mold to an appreciable extent, with the exception of Span-17 which exhibited more white mold than any other variety in the test, despite a strong fungicide program. Consequently, Span-17 yielded the lowest out of the test, with Sullivan comparing favorably to the other Virginia types.

Variety	Spotted wilt incidence 92 DAP	Grouping	White mold incidence at inversion	Grouping	Yield (lb/A)	Grouping
Sullivan	0.8%	B	2.5%	B	4165	A
Emery	1.5%	B	5.2%	B	3865	AB
Bailey	1.8%	B	2.9%	B	3763	AB
Wynne	3.1%	B	2.2%	B	3259	B
Span-17	8.4%	A	13.5%	A	1805	C

The Blackville runner type variety trial was planted 16 May 2018, inverted 152 DAP 15 October and combined 23 October. Inversion was again delayed approximately one week due to rains. The varieties with the greatest yields were FloRun 331 and Georgia 12Y, with competitive yields in the next highest tier including Georgia 16HO, ACIX-0129 (1st year looking at this variety), TUFRunner 511 and 297, and ACI 3321. For the varieties we were able to look at in 2017, these results are overall fairly consistent with performance from last year.

Variety	Yield (lb/A)	Grouping
FloRun 331	6373	A
Georgia 12Y	6010	AB
Georgia 16HO	5601	BC
ACIX-0129	5599	BC
TUFRunner 511	5536	BCD
ACI 3321	5528	BCD
TUFRunner 297	5467	BCD
TifNV-High O/L	5365	CDE
AU-NPL 17	5269	CDE
Georgia 14N	5095	CDE
Georgia 06G	4990	DE
Georgia 13M	4852	E
Georgia 09B	4333	F

I hope to see many of you during our winter production meetings, and I hope we all see good growing conditions and conditions all around come 2019.