



Alachua County Peanut Update

We are mid-way through the peanut season and environmental conditions are favorable for pests and diseases to occur. It is important to scout fields regularly so that management strategies can be implemented in a timely manner.

“Worms”

Caterpillars are starting to show up in certain areas. It is good to identify which caterpillar you might have as there are different treatment thresholds established for different species. Furthermore, certain pesticide chemistries work to control some caterpillar species but not others. For example, insecticides containing the active ingredient pyrethroid are effective against velvetbean caterpillar, and green cloverworm but are not effective against loopers, fall armyworm and beet armyworm. For assistance in identifying caterpillar pests, contact your local Extension Agent.

Nematodes

Nematode issues can be difficult to detect but should be scouted for regularly as well. Symptoms of high nematode populations appear as patches of stunted or yellow plants. Damage is usually only present on the roots. If you see areas of poor plant development in your field and cannot identify the cause, you may need to consider conducting a nematode assay. Rotation to a non-host crop for several growing seasons may be necessary to help reduce pest populations.

Diseases

Leaf spot and white mold are starting to become more prevalent throughout north Florida. High temperatures and frequent rain events exacerbate peanut diseases. As we reach full canopy cover, conditions become more favorable for plant diseases. If your field has a history of disease it may be necessary to implement a spray program to prevent crop loss. The frequency, amount and type of pesticide to be applied to a field will vary based on many factors, including the peanut variety, planting date, field history, and environmental conditions. To help identify which spray program fits best for your operation, visit the Peanut Rx website at the link below.

For more information on peanut production in Florida visit the following links:

<https://peanuts.caes.uga.edu/extension/peanut-rx.html>

<https://peanutrx.org/>

<https://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-peanut-team/>

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/peanut/>