

Dorchester/Berkeley County Crop Update

CLEMSON
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Peanut Variety and Contract Decisions

Most peanut growers in the St. George area will be growing solely runners for the first time this year. Palmetto Peanut came out with contract prices recently and will not be offering any contracts on Virginia varieties. Instead, a \$375/ton contract was offered for the Ga 06G variety and a \$400/ton contract was offered for high oleic runner varieties— Ga 09B and FL 07. This presents growers with a tough decision about which varieties to grow. Over the last 5 years of testing at the Edisto research station in Blackville, Ga 06G average yield was higher than both high oleic varieties. Other differences in the varieties can be seen in the chart below.

Runner Variety	Yield lbs/ac	High Oleic	Maturity Days	TSMK Index*
Ga 06G	5,191	No	140	+3
Ga 09B	5,063	Yes	135	+1
FL 07	4,865	Yes	150	-2

*TSMK Index— the % above or below the test average for all 14 runner varieties tested at Edisto REC

Runner Variety Characteristics

We can do some simple calculations (shown below) assuming 3,500 lbs/acre (1.75 tons) are under contract and the loan rate for remaining peanuts is \$354.86.

Ga 06G 5,191 lbs/acre=2.5955 tons/acre
(1.75 tons*\$375)+(0.8455 tons*\$354.86)=**\$956.28/acre**

Ga 09B 5,063 lbs/acre=2.5315 tons/acre
(1.75 tons*\$400)+(0.7815 tons*\$354.86)=**\$977.32/acre**

FL 07 4,865 lbs/acre=2.4326 ton/acre
(1.75 tons*\$400)+(0.6826 tons*\$354.86)=**\$942.23/acre**

Ga 09Bs show the highest per acre value at \$977.32. The Ga 06G variety would need to produce 247 lbs/acre more than Ga 09Bs to break even on the payment. In the last 5 years of research at Edisto REC, this has only happened 2 times. In 2 of those 5 years, Ga 06G actually yielded less overall than Ga 09B. Other considerations are that Ga 09Bs are more prone to harvest losses than Ga 06Gs and FL 07s if they are not dug on time. Ga 09Bs also take longer to close row middles—causing more issues with weed control and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus. Ga 09Bs also do not grade as high as the Ga 06G variety.

Making Runners Profitable

On February 20th, we had our Area Peanut Production Program in Bowman. Dr. Chapin explored ways to save money on runner peanuts. If soil calcium (Ca) levels are low, a half ton of land plaster will be sufficient. If soil tests show greater than 600 lbs/acre Ca, then you can consider skipping land plaster.

If potash levels on your soil test show at least 60 lbs/acre, then no potash application is needed. Also, he emphasized that peanuts are very good at mining phosphorus. Most of the soil tests I have looked at in this area will have plenty of phosphorus without any fertilizer application.

When applying manganese

(Mn), pay close attention to soil pH. Deficiency is most common in soils with a pH of 6.4 or higher. Chapin recommends foliar application of Mn in 0.5 lb applications using a fertilizer with at least 5% Mn. Check the 2015 Peanut Money Maker Production Guide for more information on fertilizer recommendations.



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Closer Look: Leaching

As I look around the St. George area, I've seen many fields with standing water lately. The high rainfall that we received this year has already put a delay on the planting season. Growers typically start planting early corn around March 1st, but no one has been able to get into the extremely wet fields to start planting. With more rain predicted next week, we will need some warm, sunny days to dry the fields enough to begin planting.

Seeing so many wet fields reminds me that nutrient leaching is occurring in the soil. You will remember that water is retained in soils by forming a film on the surface of soil particles. Clays have a higher surface area and so can hold more

water. Sands have a smaller surface area and drain water more quickly. Right now, most of our soils are saturated— meaning all the pore space between particles is filled with water. Under ideal conditions, this pore space would be 50% air and 50% water. The lack of oxygen/air in the soil hinders root growth of actively growing crops. Also if we try to get into the fields with equipment while it is so wet, we increase compaction.

Water in the soil will drain by gravity pulling it deeper into the soil profile and eventually into the ground water. Water will also evaporate from the soil surface— although evaporation is limited this time of year by cooler temperatures.

As water flows downward, it carries with it nutrients in the soil. Nutrients that are not held closely to the negative charge of soil particles (mostly clay) leach more easily. Nitrate is perhaps the most readily leached nutrient, because of its negative charge. Potassium also leaches relatively easily even though it is positively charged. Its charge is not great enough to be held closely to soil particles. Liming acid soils actually reduces potassium losses. Phosphorus does not leach easily because it binds to soil particles. This means though that it can be lost by runoff. Calcium and magnesium can also have significant losses from crop fields due to leaching.

Planting Considerations for Runners

The best time to plant peanuts will be here before we know it! The best time for planting is May 5th to May 25th. Earlier planting can increase the risk of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV). Fields with high CBR risk should be planted last, because soil temperatures warm up even more. For runners, the long maturity of FL 07s (150 days) means that they need to be planted first to ensure plenty of time to mature before November when lower temperatures and shorter days severely limit drying time and combining hours. A seeding rate of 6 plants per row foot is recommended for runners. Ga 06G have approximately 650 seeds per pound. Ga 09B have approximately 700 seeds per pound. FL 07 have approximately 640 seeds per pound. Runners are smaller than the typical 510

seeds per pound for Baileys. On 38 inch rows to obtain 6 seed per row foot, 127 lbs of seed per acre for Ga 06Gs and FL 07s need to be planted and 118 lbs of seed per acre for Ga 09Bs. Seed depth should ideally be a consistent 1.5" under good moisture conditions. Planting shallower than 1.5" can increase the risk of Valor injury. Conventional row spacing is 36-38" rows, but twin rows can also help reduce TSWV by closing row middles more quickly. Ga 09Bs are recommended for twin rows, because plants take longer to close row middles with conventional spacing. For twin rows, plant three seed per row foot. For more recommendations, pick up your free copy of the 2015 Peanut Money Maker Production Guide in the Dorchester Extension office.

*Check Your
Pesticide Credits
Online!*

Pesticide credit hours:

regfocus.clemson.edu/dpr/private.htm

Opportunities for pesticide credits:

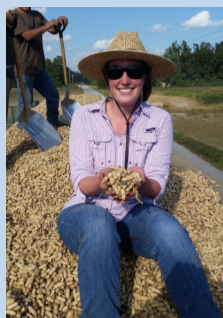
regfocus.clemson.edu/dpr/recert.htm

This website lists all recertification opportunities across the state offered by other agents and agencies. I encourage you to choose trainings which interest you.

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To see an archive of newsletters,
go to: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/dorchester/programs/row_crops/index.html

We're on the Web!
www.clemson.edu/dorchester

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 	20	21
22/29	23/30 	24/31	25	26	27	28

Upcoming Events:

- March 10th, Tues.— Soil Fertility Workshop
Dubose Banquet Hall, Manning
Coyote Control Workshop
Community Service Building, Ridgeville
- March 19th, Thurs.— Soil Health Cover Crop Meeting
New Harmony Presbyterian Church, Alcolu
- March 23rd, Mon.— Initial Training Pesticide License
SC Waterfowl Assoc. Office, Manning

Clarendon Co. Soil Meetings

Soil Fertility Clinic

Tuesday, March 10th, 2015
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

F.E. Dubose Banquet Hall
3351 Sumter Hwy (Hwy 521)
Manning, SC 29102

2 pesticide credits and 2 CCA hours applied for.

Speaker: Glen Harris, Soil Fertility Specialist, UGA

Soil Health Cover Crop Meeting

Thursday, March 19th, 2015
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

New Harmony Presbyterian Church
1174 New Harmony Church Rd.
Alcolu, SC 29001

3 pesticide credits and 3 CCA hours applied for.

Speakers: Dr. Buz Kloot, Associate Professor, USC
Gordon Mikell, Conservation Agronomist, NRCS

Coyote Control Workshop



Tuesday, March 10th, 2015

12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Town of Ridgeville, Community Service Bldg
105 School St., Ridgeville, SC 29472

Coyotes have a significant impact on wildlife and domestic animals. However, the coyotes' intelligence can make controlling them frustrating. This workshop provides basic information on coyote biology as well as hands on demonstrations for coyote trapping. Additionally, participants will learn how to trap for coyotes within the law and SCDNR regulations.

Cost is \$15. RSVP calling Paula Varn at 563-5773.

Class size is limited to 50 people.

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