

GAINES COUNTY IPM NEWSLETTER

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IPM Radio Program Ag Talk on KJTV, radio 950 AM, on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2:00.

General Situation

Rain, Rain, and more Rain! The Fourth of July weekend brought us some slow drizzling rainfall. We recorded 4 1/2 to 6 inches of rainfall at our research plots scattered throughout the county and we received some reports of up to 9 inches. For the most part, the rainfall was able to soak into our sandy soils. However, there were wash outs in some fields. Monday and Tuesday brought us some drier weather, but that all changed on Wednesday afternoon. In Seminole we have received 2+ inches since yesterday afternoon. We are very thankful for the rainfall, but it has added an extra challenge for our producers. Several producers need to apply preventative fungicides in their peanuts, herbicides in their peanut & cotton fields, and plant growth regulators on their cotton. This cool wet weather is the perfect environment for disease development. I would highly encourage growers to scout their peanut fields for pod rot diseases, foliar diseases, and blights.

Insect pressure has been low during the last two weeks. Square set is averaging around 90% in a majority of our fields. Plants may start shedding a few small squares if the soil remains saturated and the cloudy conditions persist for much longer. Scouting your fields on a regular basis will enable you to determine if a low square set is caused by insects or weather related factors.

Gearing -Up for Pod Rot

Reported by Dr. Jason Woodward

It is time to consider preventative applications for soilborne diseases. Two different fungi (*Rhizoctonia solani* and *Pythium spp.*) are the primary components of the pod rot complex. These fungi may occur alone, but are often found together. Positive disease identification is necessary to ensure maximum economic returns for chemical applications. Subtle differences between symptoms caused by the two can be observed. *Pythium* infections may include blackened decay with a greasy appearance (See [Figure 1](#)); whereas, *Rhizoctonia* infections may have more of a dry-textured appearance (See [Figure 2](#)). Laboratory confirmation is often required for a complete diagnosis.

Preventative fungicide applications are generally administered 60 to 90 days after planting; however, early initial applications may result in the need for an additional application late in the season if conducive environmental conditions persist. Several factors must be considered when applying pod rot fungicides:

- 1. Growth Stage** - Applications made before the formation of pegs and development of pods may limit the amount of product that is ultimately deposited in the pegging zone. Therefore, it is important to monitor peg development and delay applications accordingly.
- 2. Pathogen Pressure** - The identification of which pod rot pathogen you are dealing with will dictate fungicide selection.



Figure 1. Symptoms of *Pythium* pod rot



Figure 2. Symptoms of *Rhizoctonia* pod rot

- 3. Fungicide Selection** - Pod rot fungicides with activity against **Rhizoctonia** consist primarily of Abound, Artisan, and Convoy. Other fungicides such as Folicur (and other generic formulations of tebuconazole) and Provost are labeled for *Rhizoctonia* pod rot; however, their labels specify that applications are made in a 4-block regime (that is more congruent with practices in the Southeastern US). Additional fungicides are labeled for use against *Rhizoctonia*; however, efficacy data of these products is limited. Fungicide options for **Pythium** are limited to Ridomil (several formulations including a liquid and a granule are available), and Abound (suppression only, at the maximum label rate of 24.5 fl oz/A).
- 4. Application Method** - The activity of these products can be increased substantially when applied via chemigation; however, the banding of initial applications are often more cost effective. Broadcast applications result in fungicide treating bare ground which may be wasteful. Increasing carrier volumes (>20 gallons per acre) will improve deposition into the lower canopy, especially when applying liquid Ridomil formulations (as that product binds very quickly to the leaf). Administering irrigation soon after fungicide applications will also help to redistribute fungicides deposited on the foliage and increase concentrations delivered to the pegging zone.

Sclerotinia blight

Reported by Dr. Jason Woodward

In addition to pod rot, consideration must be given to preventative applications for *Sclerotinia* blight. *Sclerotinia minor*, the causal agent *Sclerotinia minor*, are most prevalent in parts of Gaines, Collingsworth, Hall, and Erath Counties. The disease generally appears as rows begin to lap with the first symptoms being flagging of foliage in the upper



Figure 3. Bleached & shredding appearance



Figure 4. Black angular shaped sclerotia

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portion of the plant. Examination of the lower canopy in the early morning will reveal white fluffy mycelia. Stems of infected plants will have a bleached shredded appearance (See *Figure 3*) with small, black, angular shaped sclerotia (See *Figure 4*) forming on and in them. Sclerotinia blight is best managed through an integrated approach. Adequate crop rotation (3-4 years) will help diminish densities of sclerotia in the soil. The use of partially resistant varieties (such as Tamrun OL07) is advised in fields with a history of the disease. Applications of the fungicide Omega and/or Endura can help reduce losses associated with the disease. A list of fungicide registered for use in peanut can be found on the web at <http://peanut.tamu.edu> click on "Texas Peanut Production Guide"

Information for this newsletter was obtained from the following publications:

- **March 15, 2010 Focus on South Plains Agriculture Newsletter**
- **June 18, 2010 Focus on South Plains Agriculture Newsletter**
<http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus>

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