

Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



The reckoning arrives for cotton and peanut diseases

Though late in the growing season in the Southeast, the month of reckoning may not mark the end of fungicide applications for cotton and peanuts.

September is the month of reckoning for peanut and cotton farmers in the Southeast. There is no better time to see the results of decisions made to manage diseases and nematodes over the entire season. One of my favorite Green Day songs is “Wake Me Up When September Ends.” But for farmers, it is not a month to snooze through. Diseases and nematodes won’t be sleeping either. Though late in the growing season, September may not mark the end of fungicide applications. Peanuts, depending on the variety and the amount of disease present in the field, should be protected with fungicides until two to three weeks of harvest. In the past, this often meant a seven-spray program. With today’s longer-season cultivars, it may mean an eight-spray program.

Cotton is vulnerable to target spot until the sixth week of bloom and to areolate mildew until within four weeks of anticipated defoliation. Late-planted corn is particularly susceptible to southern rust and tar spot. Depending upon yield potential, corn may need to be protected until it reaches the hard dough stage. Losses to diseases may be particularly severe in 2025. Extremely hot days coupled with warm, humid nights during the later days of July created conditions quite favorable for the spread of white mold in peanuts. Cooler temperatures and abundant rain in early August may have slowed white mold temporarily. However, these same conditions were near-perfect for leaf spot diseases, areolate mildew and target spot. This weather set the stage for significant disease outbreaks throughout the remainder of the season.

Source: <https://www.farmprogress.com/commentary/the-reckoning-arrives-for-cotton-and-peanut-diseases>