NC Cooperative Extension

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Bertie County Ag News

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Cool, rainy and windy conditions have delayed many field operations. With persistence, most growers are progressing nicely. Soil temperatures and the short term forecast play a big role when planting peanuts and cotton. We want to see a soil temperature of 65 at 3 inches for 3 consecutive days and a warm, fair forecast for 3-5 days before planting.

Peanut contracts for 2018 are lower and generally carry less pounds than last year. There is a temptation with lower prices, to delete inputs to offset for these cuts. Be careful not to cut those items that will decrease yield. Below are 10 practices that give you the biggest bang for your buck in peanut production.

1. Rotate at least 3 crop years between peanut plantings. Avoid soybeans in this rotation. If soybeans are in the rotation, try to put them behind peanuts.
2. Apply lime and potash based on soil test recommendations.
3. Shoot for a planting date between May 5 and May 15. Soil temperature should be 65 degrees at noon for a minimum for 3 days. Avoid planting if weather is not favorable for next 72 hours (i.e. a cold front with rain approaching). Avoid planting in extremely dry soil. Plant in enough moisture for rapid absorption by the seed. Peanuts can be planted up to 3“deep if necessary. Plant 4-5 seed per foot of row. That’s roughly 140 lb. per acre with a seed count of 525 per pound.
4. Apply an in-furrow insecticide for thrip control. Options include: Thimet, Admire, Orthene and AgLogic 15G.
5. Inoculate every acre. Placement of the inoculant in the center of the furrow, into moist soil, is critical.

6. Start with a clean seed bed and use a PPI (Prowl, Sonolan, Dual, Warrant, Strongarm, Valor) and /or preemergence herbicide (Valor, Dual, Dual Magnum, Outlook, Spartan, Strongarm) for early season weed control. Follow up as needed with post applications.
7. Apply 1200-1400 pounds of landplaster in late June or early July (early bloom).
8. Adopt a strong Leaf Spot program. Make the first application 45 DAP (days after planting) or about July 1. Choose a product with white mold control for the 1st or 2nd spray. Boron can be tank mixed at this time also. Continue leaf spot sprays at 14-day intervals or based on the spray advisory program.
9. Utilize Apogee or Kudos on varieties to improve row definition and enhance pod retention at digging. The Sullivan variety, with its smaller vines, may not warrant applications.
10. Dig at optimum maturity. Utilize pod blasting or the hull scrape method to check maturity beginning at 120 DAP. This will give time to select fields for first dig. Synchronize tractor and digger speed to avoid pulling pods from the vines. Avoid digging more acres than can be harvested in a reasonable period of time. Extra time on the ground leads to more chances of bad weather impacting yield and grade.

Quick notes: Application of poultry litter is very popular in Bertie County. Aside from saving on input cost it adds to our soil structure. But be careful when making applications to peanut fields. Soil test index levels of 250 are approaching the toxicity range for peanuts. Other crops can handle higher levels. Oh, by the way, a corn crop removes .25 pounds of zinc per year. Each ton of litter applied adds approximately .5 pounds of zinc per acre. So, a typical 3-ton application will add 6 years worth of zinc per acre.

Supplies of chlorothalonil (Bravo and generics) are expected to be limited this year. This is a critical part of many fungicide programs. Talk with your supplier to secure your needs for this season.

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Information Below Submitted By: Jarette Hurry, Ag Agent

Thrips Forecasting Tool Available Now

By. Dr. Dominic Resig

Frankliniella fusca adult and larvae

Thrips damage to cotton

Link to Tool http://climate.ncsu.edu/cottontip

Why use this tool? Most everyone knows that you need something preplant for thrips, whether that is an insecticidal seed treatment or an insecticide in-furrow. But should you use a seed treatment and an in-furrow? What about a foliar spray? This tool can help with those decisions.

What does this tool bring to the table? We have known for some time that thrips injury is a function of weather-driven seedling growth and thrips pressure. This tool uses planting date, temperature, precipitation and knowledge of when thrips pressure will occur and how severe it will be to predict when cotton is at risk.

How can I use this tool? You can use this tool to save time and money on your farm by focusing your most intensive thrips management efforts on cotton that will be planted at a time that is most at risk for thrips. It would also be a good idea to scout these areas more intensively as well.

When should I use this tool? This tool will give the best predictions within 10-14 days after the date you use it since it is based on weather forecasts. Therefore, you could use this tool two weeks before you plant to make preplant decisions, but you should also check it a few days before you plant. You should also use the tool every week after you plant to track damage potential until cotton is at the four leaf stage.

How do I use this tool? A web-based presentation http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/Cotton/ThripsInfestationPredictor/presentation.html has been prepared to guide users on the background of the tool. This presentation includes an overview of how to use this tool for individual locations in North Carolina and the Southeast US Cotton Belt.

How confident should I be with using this tool? Any forecast will have some uncertainty. However, this tool is based on many years of data from across the Southeast US Cotton Belt and has been validated several years since. We are very confident that this tool, when used as instructed, will accurately forecast thrips risk to cotton.

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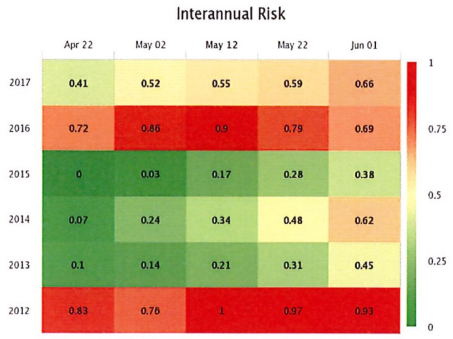
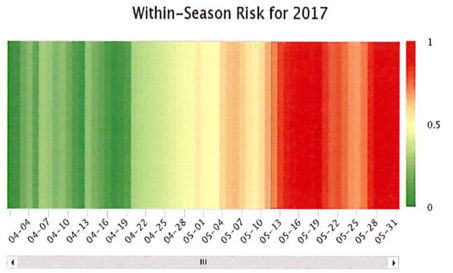
Below are the different models that are created by this tool to help you make better management decisions

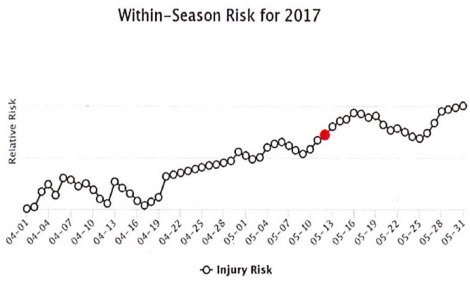
relative thrips injury risk expressed on color and numerical scales (dark green or 0= lowest; dark red or 1 = highest) for selected location.

Relative risk of thrips injury over 6-year period



Relative risk of injury across planting dates within the current year





If you have question on how to use the tool please contact Jarette Hurry