

EARLY SEASON FUNGICIDE SPRAYS FOR PEANUT? OPTIMIZING SEASON-LONG SPRAY PROGRAMS

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Several trials were conducted to evaluate disease control programs starting with in furrow applications to insure good stands, and continuing with various levels of fungicide inputs. These were combined with cultivars having various levels of disease resistance, and economic returns found for the cultivar/fungicide combinations.

Two trials were conducted in Tifton on Tifguard peanut to evaluate in furrow applications of Abound at 2.9, 5.8 and 11.6 fl oz per acre in paired plots on Tifguard seed either treated with Dynasty PD (4 oz/100 lb) or nontreated. In both trials the plant stands were greatly reduced when no seed treatment was applied. The in furrow applications gave nearly identical results across the 3 rates, and all produced greatly improved plant stands with nontreated seed, although not quite as good as with the Dynasty. The in furrow sprays also produced larger plants from nontreated seed, and improved crop yield by 1121 and 2030 lb/A on nontreated seed. While there were no differences on fungicide treated seed, seedling diseases and stand issues are often hard to predict. The low rate of Abound (2.9 fl oz/A) did very well, and at only \$3-4 per acre (single rows) is a relatively cheap way to help avoid difficult issues involved with replanting when stand problems occur.

A repeat trial from 2013 evaluated 7 different fungicide programs ranging from nontreated, to only chlorothalonil or chlorothalonil/tebuconazole, to more “high end” programs utilizing Fontelis, banded Proline applications, etc. These were applied to paired plots of GA-06G and GA-12Y in a white mold field. As was seen in 2013, the GA-12Y was much more resistant to white mold than GA-06G, having about 1/3 of the disease incidence across treatments. However, an unexpected high level of root knot nematode developed on both cultivars, resulting in final yields of only 2700-3600 lb/A. Trends were still similar as to 2013 where more expensive programs still paid for themselves and resulted in a profit on GA-06G, but on the more disease-resistant GA-12Y lower end fungicide programs resulted in the highest profits. This test demonstrates the importance of knowing disease risks and planning accordingly.

A large-plot trial was conducted in Appling County in cooperation with Southeastern Gin and Peanut evaluating 5 fungicide program on 3 cultivars, GA-06G, GA-12Y and Tufrunner 727. There were obvious differences among cultivars in disease susceptibility with GA-12Y being the most resistant to TSWV and white mold, but showing increased susceptibility to Rhizoctonia limb rot. Tufrunner 727 was similarly susceptible to limb rot, and also had more TSWV and more white mold than either GA-06G or GA-12Y, while GA-06G clearly had the least limb rot of the 3 cultivars. Yields of all 3 were in excess of 5000 lb/A and were similar across cultivars.