

Acephate and Alternative Foliar-applied Insecticides for Thrips Control

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Thrips are tiny spindle-shaped insects that feed on peanut plants by sucking juice out of leaves. In Virginia's shorter peanut growing season, severe thrips feeding causes maturity delays that reduce yield. Most, if not all, of Virginia peanut producers use an in-furrow insecticide to control thrips (e.g., imidacloprid, phorate, aldicarb). In cool and dry years, or in fields with poor plant growth (e.g., chemical burn), supplemental control with foliar sprays is needed. The most-used foliar thrips insecticide is acephate. Based on visual ratings of plant injury, acephate is not providing adequate control of thrips populations in Virginia and North Carolina. We evaluated the benefit of applying foliar acephate to various in-furrow products and evaluated alternative foliar insecticides for thrips control.