

## **Impact of Fungicide Programs and Delayed Harvest on Yield and Quality of Peanut (*Arachis Hypogaea* L.).**

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Peanut growers in Georgia strive to maximize yield and quality each year in order to remain profitable. Their efforts involve keeping the crop healthy by managing diseases through effective fungicide programs throughout the season, and then, harvesting peanut in a timely manner to maintain yield potential. Research was conducted in 2019 and 2020 at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus in Tifton, GA to evaluate the efficacy of different fungicide programs and their respective impact on maintaining yield and quality of peanut when harvest is delayed after digging. Treatments were arranged in a split plot design with four replications. Harvest date was the main plot effect and fungicide program was the sub-plot. Harvest date treatments were 1.) 5 days after digging, 2.) 10 days after digging, and 3.) 20 days after digging. Fungicide program treatments consisted of 1.) chlorothalonil + tebuconazole program (60, 75, 90, 110 DAP), 2.) azoxystrobin + benzovindiflupyr (60 and 90 DAP) and chlorothalonil + flutalonil (75, 110 DAP) program, and 3.) azoxystrobin + benzovindiflupyr + pydiflumetofen (60, 88 DAP). The runner market-type cultivar Georgia-09B was planted in both years. All plots received chlorothalonil at 45 and 120 DAP and were inverted at optimum maturity. Plots were rated for leafspot diseases prior to digging and southern stem rot immediately after digging to provide an assessment of plant health given the varying fungicide programs evaluated. Peanut yield declined as much as 400 lbs/A and select grade parameters (ie. sound splits) increased up to 3% as harvest date was lengthened, no matter the fungicide program. However, the more broad-spectrum fungicide programs maintained greater yields (200+ lbs/A) and quality (1+ % total sound mature kernels) compared to the chlorothalonil + tebuconazole program across all harvest dates.