

Peanut Rx: Still A Dynamic Risk Management Tool to Refine Disease Control.

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Peanut Rx is an example of how research, Extension, and Industry efforts blend for the benefit of the growers. Peanut Rx is a risk management tool developed to provide growers in the southeastern United States with the opportunity to reduce threat to Tomato spotted wilt, leaf spot diseases, and southern stem blight by pre-plant assessment of 10 factors. These factors include variety, planting date, plant population, at-plant insecticide, row pattern, tillage, use of Classic™ herbicide, crop rotation, field history, and irrigation. Peanut Rx resulted from the merger of the long-established UGA Tomato Spot Wilt Risk Index and the more recent UGA Fungal Disease Risk Index. Syngenta Crop Protection was at the forefront to refine recommended fungicide programs based upon disease risk as determined through use of the risk index. Peanut Rx is refined annually as researchers continue to explore ways to make the index a more effective and accurate resource for peanut producers. Researchers and Extension specialists from five land grant universities to include the University of Georgia, the University of Florida, Auburn University, Mississippi State University, and Clemson University meet annually to discuss results from the previous season, to refine risk assessments, to adjust risk points, and to consider addition of new factors. In its original format, weather, climate, and assessment of the thrips vector were not included. However, subsequent research has demonstrated that prediction of risk to Tomato spotted can be improved with inclusion of winter ENSO phases and/or use of Thrips Infestation Predictor for Cotton. Peanut Rx remains an important tool by which growers can reduce threat from four diseases (Tomato spotted wilt, late leaf spot, early leaf spot, and southern stem blight) by managing 10 factors. Today, Peanut Rx is not only available to growers through traditional Extension bulletins, but also online at Peanutrx.org and through "Peanut Rx" fungicide program materials developed by seven agrichemical companies.