

Evaluating Peanut Fungicide Programs for White Mold and Leafspot Control

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Peanut production in Cook County, Georgia comprised \$9,450,000 of the county's total \$94 million-dollar farm-gate value in 2020. White Mold (WM) (*Sclerotium rolfsii*) is considered by growers to be the most destructive disease in peanut production. To generate local data for peanut growers upon which to base their disease management decisions and to increase economic returns on production investments, Cook County Extension, a local grower, and a UGA Extension Plant Pathologist collaborated to establish a trial evaluating peanut fungicide programs for WM and leafspot (LS) control. Ten fungicide programs were tested in the replicated trial using programs common among peanut producers in the southeastern United States. Disease ratings and yield for each treatment were recorded. Local Agri-suppliers provided data on cost of fungicides. Incidence of white mold in this study was low (WM < 5.3%); LS severity in the trial was also low (LS < 2.5) and was assessed using the Florida 1 to 10 scale (1 = no disease, 10 = complete defoliation). The Priaxor; Umbra 2X; Provysol; Tebuconazole program had the lowest % incidence of WM (.33) and produced the greatest yield (7,175 lbs./A) among all treatments. The Priaxor; Convoy; Umbra; and Muscle ADV 3X programs had the lowest incidence of LS (1). The Muscle ADV 4X resulted in the highest profit per acre (\$1,158/A) among all treatments, however previous year's data show a correlation between fungicide input costs and WM control. From a trial here in 2020, a 4 block tebuconazole / chlorothalonil program cost \$5,500 while a 3 block Elatus program cost \$10,200. Despite the added expense, the 3-block Elatus program resulted in a 32% increase in profit over the tebuconazole program.