

Project Title: Thrips and TSWV
Fund No. 367394 302807

310
AL-67
1157
2012
Field &
Sunn

Report of Progress: Research plots were established in 2012 at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center. Individual plots were 12 X 40 ft. wide in a split plot design with four replications. Treatments consisted of tillage systems, insecticide application, and starter fertilizer application. Peanuts were planted on 4-26-12. Main plots consisted of tillage as either conventional tillage or strip tillage with a rye cover crop. The subplots were a factorial combination of starter fertilizer and in-furrow insecticide. Starter fertilizer treatments consisted of no fertilizer or N+P applied in a 2x2 band beside the row at planting, while insecticide treatments consisted of no in-furrow insecticide or Phorate applied in-furrow. Early season plant samples for nutrient content were collected from all plots at two separate times during the growing season. In addition, plants were sampled on three separate times to determine thrips numbers from each plot. Disease counts were collected from all plots, prior to digging and immediately following digging. All plots were harvested on 9-21-12. Starter fertilizer had no effect on yield, grade, thrips numbers, or TSWV incidence. There was a 15% increase in yield where phorate was used. Management decisions including tillage and/or phorate in-furrow appear to have a much more significant effect on thrips management in peanut production compared to starter fertilizer.