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Peanut Variety Pest Management Study 2012

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Eight peanut varieties were evaluated under irrigated and dryland conditions for their attractiveness and/or tolerance to insect pest infestations. Varieties included GA06G, GA07W, GA09B, GA Greener, FL07, FloRun 107, TufRunner, and TifGuard. Caterpillar complex observed in July and August included the corn earworm, soybean looper, velvetbean caterpillar, and armyworms (2 species). Sucking insect pests observed in July and August consisted of the three cornered alfalfa hopper (TCAH) and stink bugs (SB). There were no significant differences between caterpillar numbers from dryland versus irrigated plots, although caterpillar numbers were numerically higher in the irrigated plots. There were more TCAH in the irrigated plots compared to the dryland situation. The peanut varieties were able to tolerate caterpillar feeding without the need for additional insecticide treatments. In the dryland test, the highest caterpillar counts were found in TufRunner, FL07, and Ga09B during July and August. Under irrigated conditions, highest caterpillar numbers were found in GA Greener, GA07W, and GA09B. Caterpillar pressure reduced drastically in August due to unfavorable environmental conditions. TCAH numbers were higher in irrigated plots compared to the dryland plots. Pitfall traps were used to monitor burrower bugs (*Pangaeus* sp.) in plots but adequate rainfall during later months prevented any significant buildup of the insect in the research plots. The white-margined burrower bugs and geocorid bugs were abundant in August but both these species are nonthreatening to peanut plants. Large buildup of geocorid bugs in peanut fields could be related to the caterpillar pressure (prey) in peanut canopy. Peanut producers were provided scouting reports on a weekly basis in July and August based on information generated from these observations. Pest alert articles were published in the Alabama IPM Communicator Newsletter, the American Peanut Grower and Southeastern Peanut Producer magazines.

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