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Early Season Weed Control in Peanut



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Well the season has started out less than ideal. Hot, dry days intermingled with cold days and nights and both accompanied by the never ceasing wind have led to less than ideal stands of peanuts in most fields this year. While we still have the opportunity to make an excellent peanut crop one of the first things we must implement is a successful early season weed control program. With peanut growth being slow due to weather and wind we need to make sure that we do not let weeds get a hold on these fields. Peanuts have always been a slow growing crop early in the season and weed competition is at a maximum at this time. However, with the current situation this early season weed competition is likely exacerbated. Therefore, not letting these weeds get the upper hand will be critical to maintaining the potential for high

yields. It is obvious with the winter we have had and the current spring that using every drop of available moisture will be at an all-time high. Don't let weeds have any of this precious commodity this season. Below are several suggestions for early season weed control in peanut.

One of the components to maximizing peanut yield is weed control, especially early season. Fields should be kept clean and free of weed competition for the first 4 to 6 weeks to ensure peanuts are off to a good start. While preplant and preemergence herbicides need to be part of any successful weed control program these will often need to be supplemented with postemergence herbicide applications early in the season.

Dual Magnum (generic metolachlor) and **Outlook** have often been used successfully as preemergence herbicides but they can also be applied postemer-

gence to lengthen residual control through the season. **Dual Magnum** and **Outlook** have good activity on annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds, but must be ap-



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plied prior to weed emergence or emerged weeds must be controlled by tank-mixing with another POST herbicide. **Gramoxone Inteon** (generic paraquat) is an excellent tank mix partner if applications are made prior to 28 days after cracking. In addition, activity on yellow nutsedge has been observed when these herbicides have been applied POST to peanut, but activation shortly after herbicide application (within 24 to 36

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hrs.) by rainfall or irrigation is necessary for effective control.

There are several herbicides labeled for use postemergence in peanut. **Cadre** (generic imazapic) and **Pursuit** have good activity on many annual broadleaf and grass weeds, and nutsedge. The development of weeds resistant to Cadre and Pursuit is of increased concern across the peanut belt and the use of different chemistry in combination or rotation with these herbicides is encouraged

to prevent these issues. Cadre and Pursuit have an 18-month rotation restriction following application before cotton and grain sorghum may be planted.

Basagran, **Cobra**, and **Ultra Blazer** are options for use early postemergence in peanut. Basagran has activity on common cocklebur, annual sunflowers, and yellow nutsedge. Ultra Blazer and Cobra are effective on Palmer amaranth (carelessweed), annual morningglory, and other broadleaf

weeds. Weed size and “health” are important for effective weed control for these “contact-type” herbicides. Effective weed control with these herbicides will decline as weed size increases. In south Texas, we are able to control slightly taller weeds with Ultra Blazer and Cobra due to the higher humidity levels that are present in this area compared to the Rolling Plains or High Plains. Unlike Cadre and Pursuit, these herbicides do not provide soil residual weed control. **Storm**, a prepackaged mixture of

Basagran and Ultra Blazer, may be used to control a wide range of small and actively growing annual broadleaf weeds. All of these herbicides need a spray additive (e.g. a crop oil concentrate) for maximum herbicidal activity. Herbicide options to control grassy weeds include **Fusilade**, **Select** (generic clethodim) and



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ry appears on peanut as a loss of turgidity or the peanuts “just lay down”. Normally, 36 to 48 hrs after application, these symptoms disappear and the peanuts regain their normal appearance. Previous research suggests that this injury will not result in yield loss at the end of the season. 2,4-DB may be tank mixed with other herbicides to broaden the spectrum of weeds controlled. Proper tank clean out and drift reduction must be a priority when selecting this herbicide.

With all these postemergence herbicides, applications to weeds under stress especially moisture stress will decrease control. If needed apply irrigation prior to application to get the weeds actively growing. This will increase herbicide uptake and

ultimately weed control. The other factor that will be a key issue this year is temperature. Extremely hot temperatures often decrease herbicide performance. Applications made earlier in the season will be applied when temperatures are less extreme than they most likely will be later in the season. In addition, weeds are generally smaller and easier to control at this time as well. Finally be sure and read all herbicide labels to ensure of proper application rate and that the proper additive is included to maximize performance. If you have any additional questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact your county agricultural extension agent or extension specialist for assistance in addressing these issues.

Poast Plus. Bermudagrass control in most instances will require a sequential herbicide application for complete control. The order of control from best to worse is Select > Fusilade > Poast Plus.

2,4-DB (Butyrac or Butoxone) is also an option for use postemergence in peanut, but extreme care must be taken when using this herbicide. 2,4-DB has good activity on several annual broadleaf weeds including morningglory and sunflower and larger and tough-to-control weeds such as silverleaf nightshade (whiteweed). The use of crop oil with 2,4-DB will increase activity, but crop oil also will enhance phenoxy-type injury to peanut. This inju-

“applications to weeds under stress will decrease control”



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