Insect Management in Peanuts

John P. Beasley, Jr.
Extension Peanut Agronomist
Crop and Soil Sciences Department
University of Georgia

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Is Scouting Outdated?
What can a scout tell us?

- Foliage feeder number and species
- Spider mites
- LCBs, SCRs, WWs (field histories)
- Weed emergence
- Weed composition, field histories
- Efficacy of leaf spot program
- Documentation of CBR
- Data for irrigation, disease models
Recommendations on Scouting

- Scouting pays, DO IT!
- Responsibility should go to someone that has the time to do it right.
- Scout training is available if you ask!
- Think beyond bugs
- Keep good records
- Don’t just collect info, USE IT!, Set aside a time for info exchange
Insect Problems of Peanut

- Thrips
- Three-cornered alfalfa hopper
- Leaf hoppers
- Foliage feeders
  - Tobacco budworm in 2008
- Soil insects
- Spider mites
- Burrower bug
Nymphs look much like adults except they are spiny and do not have functional wings. They feed in the same manner as adults.
They probe with their stylet and selectively feed from phloem tissue. Phloem is the tissue that transports sugars generated in the leaves.
Physiological changes sometimes cause the stem to turn purple above the feeding site(s).
There is some evidence that feedings sites close to the ground may lead to increased incidence of white mold.
Affects on yield are not well documented but extensive feeding like this is likely to reduce yields.
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<th>2003</th>
<th>#</th>
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<th>#</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Avg. (Rank)</th>
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Scouting for 3CAH

- A sweep net is good for sampling adult populations, but not nymphs
- Flush counts can also be used – count adults flying away as you tap the foliage with a yard stick
- Nymphs can be dislodged from the foliage in the same manner as foliage feeding caterpillars
Insecticide timing is more important than selection, so scouting is critical to controlling this insect!

- June and July hatch outs must be controlled to prevent the heavy damage and high populations seen in August and September.

- If you can’t scout, early July seems to be the key time for control most years.

- But CAUTION, excessive spraying can lead to outbreaks of foliage feeders or spider mites.
Primary Soil Insects Pests of Peanut
Burrower Bug
Pangaeus bilineatus
What’s the best thing to put in a peanut field at this time of the season????

Footprints!!