



# Pest e-alerts



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## Notice

Jen Olson will be on vacation and then at a professional meeting from August 2 through August 16. During this time period, there will be no Plant Disease Diagnostician in the PDIDL to examine samples. If possible, please hold off on collecting and submitting samples until she returns from vacation. All plant disease samples will be placed in cold storage as they arrive and Jen will examine them in the order received upon her return. If you have an emergency, please contact Dr. Rick Grantham at 405-744-9417 or [entoman@okstate.edu](mailto:entoman@okstate.edu).

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### **Peanut Disease Update**

John Damicone, Extension Plant Pathologist

#### **Leaf Spot and Web Blotch**

Because of contracts offered this year, there is an increase in the percentage of the acreage in Oklahoma planted to Spanish peanuts. Because Spanish types are highly susceptible to early leaf spot (Figure 1) and other foliar diseases such as web blotch (Figure 2), it is important to keep the disease under control. In the leaf spot trials at the Caddo Research Station this year, there was no leaf spot present when we made the first application in early July. Examining the peanut leaf spot advisory program on the Oklahoma Mesonet web site (<http://www.mesonet.org/>), it was dry with no infection hours accumulated from mid-June through mid-July. However, conditions have become very favorable for leaf spot during the second half of July. Table 1 shows that in most peanut growing areas of the state, infection periods have almost doubled over those accumulated in June. It takes 36 infection hours before spots appear. Most of the infection hour build-up occurred from 14 to 19 July, so look for leaf spot to start showing up in fields soon since it takes about 10 to 14 days for spots to appear or increase after an infection period. Peanut fields that have not been sprayed for leaf spot definitely require treatment. Monitor the Mesonet site to schedule future fungicide applications or maintain a 14-day schedule at least until September. Try to keep the peanuts clean until about mid-September so that peanuts can be left in the field until optimum maturity.

without the need for an intensive spray schedule (rescue program) in the fall. On the Mesonet web site when “Agriculture” is selected, a local “Farm Monitor” (Fig 3) appears that contains a peanut leaf spot gauge that shows the favorability of weather over the last 14-days for leaf spot. The color red serves as a warning here. This is a quick way to use weather in helping to make a spray/no spray decision. Make sure that a nearby Mesonet site is selected!



**Fig 1.** Early leaf spot of peanut.



**Fig 2.** Web blotch of peanut.

If we keep getting rain in August, keep a close eye out for web blotch on Spanish peanuts as well. If web blotch is found, abandon any reduced spray program and maintain a strict 14-day program using chlorothalonil fungicide products (eg. Bravo). Consider alternating Headline with chlorothalonil for the best web blotch control. Web blotch is a minor concern for runner and Virginia varieties.

**Table 1.** Weather conditions favorable for leaf spot development in peanut growing areas since June 1, 2013 according to the Peanut Leaf Spot Advisor on the Oklahoma Mesonet Agweather web site.

| Location (county)  | Infection hours |      |
|--------------------|-----------------|------|
|                    | June            | July |
| Burneyville (Love) | 72              | 106  |
| Erick (Beckham)    | 30              | 63   |
| Fairview (Major)   | 46              | 67   |
| Ft. Cobb (Caddo)   | 35              | 81   |
| Hinton (Caddo)     | 49              | 82   |
| Tipton (Tillman)   | 30              | 55   |



**Fig 3.** Quick gauge of leaf spot risk for Ft. Cobb, OK on the “Farm Monitor” Agriculture weather page of the Oklahoma Mesonet.

## Sclerotinia Blight

Beck Johnson, crop consultant in western Oklahoma has made the first report of Sclerotinia blight in a couple of peanut fields where the vines have lapped near Eakley. The rainy weather in July has brought periods of cooler than normal temperatures which favor Sclerotinia blight. This is a relatively early appearance of the disease, particularly compared to the last few years when hot and dry summers delayed the disease until September.



**Fig 4.** Sclerotinia blight of peanut.

Several points need to be considered in deciding where and when to treat for the disease. Firstly, are the peanuts Spanish or runner/Virginia? Spanish types are moderately resistant and they do not normally (85% of the time) respond to fungicide treatment for Sclerotinia blight. One exception was in 2009 when it rained nearly every day that fall. For other problem fields planted to runner and Virginia varieties, make a fungicide application as soon as the disease appears, or prior to disease appearance when the vines have lapped and cool/rainy weather is expected. If the peanuts require treatment in August or late July, a second application in September will likely be needed. Fungicides registered for Sclerotinia blight include Omega, Endura, Fontelis, and Propulse. Omega and Endura are the most effective, but are also expensive. Endura, Fontelis, and Propulse also control leaf spot; while Omega and Fontelis also control southern blight.

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## False Chinch Bugs in Sorghum

Tom A. Royer, Extension Entomologist



Reports of false chinch bug infesting sorghum heads are coming in. Roger Gribble, Area Extension Agronomist reported a field of sorghum near Nash with heavy infestations. As sorghum begins to head, it is important to make sure your crop is not being damaged by this insect. This insect injures plants by sucking the liquid in developing seeds when they are in the milk stage. It has a life span of about 40 days (from egg hatch through adult).

### Sampling

False chinch bug nymphs are ash-gray with brown-white mottling on the back and red mottling on the abdomen. Adults measure about 1/8 inch long, are dirty gray, with brown or black markings. Sorghum heads must be examined to determine the need for control of panicle-feeding bugs. The shake bucket/baggie method of scouting works well for sampling fields. Carefully move to a plant without disturbing it, quickly shake the head into the bucket or plastic bag, and shake it vigorously. Count all false chinch bugs that fall into the bucket or garbage bag. Adult bugs will fly out of the bucket, so be prepared to count “flying” bugs. Inspect at least 1 head per acre of field (minimum 30 samples) and continue scouting sorghum until the head has reached soft dough.



### Control Suggestions

False chinch bugs are not likely to cause economic injury when sorghum matures past the milk stage, so treatment for false chinch bugs after milk stage is not likely to provide economic benefit. Before milk stage, treat when scouting indicates more than 140 false chinch bugs per head. See [CR-7170, Management of Sorghum Insects](#), or E-832, 2012 OSU Extension Agents' Handbook of Insect, Plant disease and Weed Control for current recommendations.

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