

# 2023 PEANUT WEED GUIDEBOOK

## PEANUT WEED MANAGEMENT TIPS

By Joy Crosby

**A**s farmers begin to plan for their 2023 peanut crop, weed management should be at the forefront of their plans.

Starting with a clean field regardless of the crop is the main message Eric Prostko, University of Georgia Extension weed specialist, shares with growers at production meetings this winter. Specifically, with peanuts, he encourages growers to plant twin-row to aid in weed control.

"Based upon results from historical field trials, growers will likely see about a 10 percent increase in weed control in peanuts when planted in twin-rows versus single rows," Prostko says.

For strip-till farmers who are beginning the process of pre-plant burndown, Prostko recommends Round Up or Gramoxone plus 2,4-D plus Valor. He says, two ounces of Valor with the burndown will keep pigweed from emerging between the time a farmer sprays the burndown and when they actually get in the field. Then, Prostko recommends another two ounces of Valor at planting for weed control.

In terms of weed management for 2023, Prostko encourages farmers to use multiple residual herbicides in their system. Two common herbicides farmers use are Prowl and Sonalan and Prostko does not have a preference between either one.

"Cracking" or early-postemergence applications of paraquat may not always be needed in peanut fields that started off weed-



*Peanut weed control 50 days after planting (DAP) using UGA Recommended Weed Control Program: 1) starting clean; 2) twin row planting; 3) multiple residual herbicides; and 4) timely postemergence applications (i.e. weeds <4" tall, 30 DAP).*

free and where at-planting residual herbicides (Dual Magnum, Prowl, Outlook, Sonalan, Strongarm, Valor and Warrant) were activated with timely rainfall or irrigation. Growers are encouraged to walk their fields early after preemergence herbicides are applied to determine the need for a "cracking" spray. Gramoxone + Storm or Basagran + any Group 15 (Anthem Flex, Dual Magnum, Outlook, Warrant, or Zidua) will clean up most weed escapes, especially in dryland peanut fields where preemergence herbicides were not activated with moisture.

Valor cleanout continues to be one of the most common problems among growers who use this herbicide. Prostko received an idea from a Worth County farmer Johnny Cochran for Valor cleanout. Cochran attaches a wire brush to the end of a long tube and then puts it on an

electric drill so he can run the brush into the various parts of the sprayer in order to clean out the Valor. According to Cochran, he has never had a major issue with Valor since he has been cleaning his sprayers with the homemade cleaning kit.

One new herbicide available for farmers this year is Brake (fluridone), which was granted full registration by EPA in January 2023. Research on the use of Brake in peanuts has been ongoing in Georgia since 2013.

The new herbicide provides farmers with a mode of action (HRAC/WSSA Group 12) that is currently not being utilized in peanuts. So, if a farmer is having trouble with resistance management, then Brake is a new option for farmers to think about breaking the cycle of resistance. Brake's mode of action is the same as Zorial (norflurazon) which was used in the late 1990's for weed control in peanut.

Brake should be applied after planting but before peanut emergence and must be used in combination with other residual herbicides such as Dual Magnum, Outlook, Prowl, Sonalan, Strongarm and Warrant. Farmers using Brake for the first time should expect to see some temporary crop injury in the form of bleaching or whitening. However, Prostko says the bleaching is not enough to worry about as long as the labeled rate (12 oz/A) is used. Brake must receive at least 0.5" of rainfall or irrigation after application to be most effective. ■■■