

Larger peanuts need more calcium

By PAM GOLDEN

GROWERS who thought their peanut seed bags didn't go as far in the field this year aren't viewing the past with rose-tinted glasses, nor are they imagining things.

The new runner peanut varieties primarily are larger-seeded cultivars.

"Every one of them would technically be in the Virginia class of peanuts," says University of Florida Extension agronomist David Wright.

The question for growers — after they swallow hard on the higher seed costs, conservatively averaged at 25% — is whether they need more calcium.

Gypsum, or land plaster, is nearly an automatic treatment at bloom for seed peanuts and Virginia peanuts, notes University of Georgia Extension soil scientist Glen Harris. UGA recommends 160 to 200 pounds of calcium per acre for runner cultivars and 320 to 400 pounds for Virginias.

The question then becomes where the new large-seeded runners fall.

"Between the two," Harris says.

Look at seed count per bag and be aware of the end use for your peanuts.

"You really need to get the gypsum on those larger-seeded varieties if you're

Key Points

- New runner cultivars are larger than peanut varieties such as Florunner.
- Large-seed varieties demand more calcium for seed production.
- Higher calcium rates may raise quality and yield in large-seed varieties.

growing for seed," says University of Florida peanut breeder Barry Tillman. "Germination really drops off without gypsum."

The other consideration is whether the price for the gypsum will bring an economic return on yield.

"It could make a difference," Wright says. He's seen a 150- to 200-pounds-per-

acre yield bump with gypsum.

The larger-seeded runner cultivars to pay particular attention to are: Georgia-06G, Florida-07, Georgia-07W, AP-4, Tifguard, McCloud and AT 3085RO.

UGA agronomist John Beasley advises monitoring calcium in the pegging zone. If the field scores above 500 on the soil test, gypsum isn't needed.



GLEN HARRIS



Cultivar	Seed per pound*
Larger-seed runners	Fewer than 700
Georgia-06G	628
Florida-07	638
Georgia-07W	647
AP-4	648
Tifguard	652
McCloud	670
AT 3085RO	685
Medium-seed runners	700-800
Georgia-03L	710
Georgia Greener	724
AP-3	747
Georgia-02C	775
Small-seed runners	More than 800
Georgia Green	804
York	842

* Number of seed varies annually.
SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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