

Mid-late Season Weed Problem in Peanut

Steve Li, Extension Specialist, Assistant Professor, Auburn University

Since mid-July, I have received several grower inquiries regarding mid-late season weed control in peanut. Most of them were related to large morningglory, sicklepod, coffeeweed, pigweed, FL beggarweed, FL pusley, etc. Growers wanted to know what options they can spray to control those weeds when their peanut is around 90 days old. I hate to tell them use a bushhog to mow weeds down, but at this point, herbicide options are very limited due to pre-harvest interval (PHI) restrictions on herbicide labels. For example, a PHI of 90 days means that growers cannot apply this herbicide within 90 days before harvest. Here is a list of PHIs for commonly-used postemergence herbicides:

Name	PHI (days)	Last day to apply (days after planting)*
Cadre	90	55
Cobra	45	100
Ultra Blazer	75	70
Storm	75	70
2,4-DB	45	100
Classic	45	100
Pursuit	85	60
Aim	7	138

*Calculated as 145 days from planting to harvest



Picture 1: Late-season morningglory infestation in peanut at Headland AL.

It is understandable that growers may have a few patches of weeds in mid-late season that they want to clean up. However, if someone is in deep trouble with weeds when his peanut is at 90 days after planting, I believe that he may not use proper postemergence treatments early on in his crop. Lack of residual herbicides in early postemergence treatments is a major cause for this problem. Chloroacetamide herbicides such as Dual Magnum, Zidua, Outlook and Warrant applied at full label rate can usually provide 20-30 days of residual weed control and they are critical components to a successful season-long weed control program in peanut.

A few suggestions for those who struggle with mid-late season weed problems in peanut:

1. Check your postemergence treatments and include chloroacetamide residual herbicides with postemergence herbicides if you have not.
2. Apply postemergence herbicides with short PHI and make sure you follow label restrictions.
3. Aim is usually good on morningglory species but not small-flower morningglory. 2,4-DB is widely used to control mid-late season weeds in peanut. It will slow down weed growth but will not result in complete weed death. Only 2 applications of 2,4-DB are allowed per year and some farmers in Alabama complained that it is slowly losing efficacy on sicklepod.
4. A weed wiper or roller will allow growers to wipe high rates of Gramoxone and other non-selective herbicides on weeds, however, it is a very slow process and may not work on large acreage.
5. Bring your mower to the field. No weeds have developed resistance to a steel blade yet. If you cannot fully control them with herbicides, then at least do not let them set seeds and build up future problems for you.

Questions? Please contact:

Dr. Steve Li,
Extension Weed Scientist, Assistant Professor
Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences
Auburn University
334-707-7370; steveli@auburn.edu