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DUSTING PEANUTS FOR THE CONTROL OF LEAFSPOT AND LEAFHOPPER

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Materials: Use a conditioned dusting sulphur of such fineness that at least 93 percent will pass through a 325-mesh screen. If an infestation of leafhoppers occurs before the first application of sulphur is made, the first dust application should consist of a mixture containing 90 percent dusting sulphur and 1 percent DDT. Use sulphur-DDT whenever hoppers are numerous.

Satisfactory leafspot control in Virginia is generally maintained with sulphur applications. The North Carolina Experiment Station and Extension Division however, have found that the addition of about 4 percent copper to the sulphur improved leafspot control and resulted in more profitable yields. The Virginia Experiment Station has found that the sulphur-copper mixture gives better leafspot control than sulphur alone, but this mixture has not been tested sufficiently under farm conditions to state that it is more profitable to use. Virginia growers are, therefore, urged to dust a small portion of their crop with the sulphur-copper mixture and to compare the results with benefits derived from straight sulphur treatments.

When to start: Make the first application of dust between July 10 and 30.

Number of applications: Dust peanuts at two-week intervals. Three applications will be enough unless the dust is rained off within 24 hours after it is applied. In which case, a special application should follow within a week. The remaining regular applications then follow at two-week intervals.

Amount to apply: Apply fifteen to twenty pounds per acre per application, and not more than eighty pounds per acre during the season.

How to dust: To get good coverage, keep the nozzles of the duster close to the plants, and apply the dust with enough force to carry it through the vines to the ground. Peanuts may be dusted at any time when the air is still. Usually the most satisfactory time to dust is early in the morning or late in the afternoon.

Dusting equipment: The 4-row (one nozzle to the row) traction duster or the 6- or 8-row power duster is the most practical and does a better dusting job than smaller machines. It is suggested that three or four farmers buy and use a duster of this type cooperatively. The cost will then be less for each grower, and it will be possible to do a much better dusting job.

Precautions:

- (1) Be sure the duster hopper is thoroughly cleaned before and after using.
- (2) Do not fill hopper with sulphur until the machine arrives at the field where the dusting is to be done.
- (3) Not more than 4 applications of sulphur dust should be made during the season.
- (4) Dusted peanuts should be harvested 5 to 10 days later than undusted peanuts.

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S.B.Fenne (5) Dusted peanuts cure slowly and should be allowed to wilt on the ground before shocking in order to prevent moldy hay and nuts.
3-1-52
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