DUSTING PEANUTS FOR THE CONTROL OF LEAFSPOT AND LEAFHOPPER

Materials: Use a conditioned dusting sulphur of such fineness that at least 93 per cent will pass through a 325-mesh screen. Best leafspot control is obtained with a dust containing about 97 per cent sulphur. 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 per cent dusting sulphur and 1 per cent DDT. Use sulphur-DDT whenever hoppers are numerous. Recent research work in North Carolina and in Virginia indicates that the addition of a small amount of copper to the sulphur dust will improve its effectiveness. It is therefore suggested that interested farmers try out, on a small scale, a copper-sulphur dust. Certain local dealers stock a ready-mixed copper-sulphur mixture suitable for peanut dusting.

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 15 to 20 pounds per acre per application, and not more than 80 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) No 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. (5) Dusted peanuts cure slowly and should be allowed to wilt on the ground before shocking, in order to prevent moldy hay and nuts.