



Effect Of Calcium Application Timing On Peanut Yield, Grade And Value, Blackville, S.C., 2008.

Timing	Yield (lb/a)	TSMK (%)	ELK (%)	Value (\$/A)
At-Plant	4538	70.9	54.7	1168
13 DAP	4576	70.7	54.7	1175
33 DAP	4574	71.9	57.1	1190
Check	3947	66.1	46.7	969

TSMK= Total Sound Mature Kernels; ELK = Extra Large Kernels; At-Plant (gypsum applied at planting); DAP = Days After Planting; Check = No gypsum.

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Timing	Yield (lb/a)	TSMK (%)	ELK (%)	Value (\$/A)
At-Plant	5326	72.0	56.0	1549
35 DAP	5543	71.6	57.0	1610
50 DAP	5069	68.5	50.0	1462
Check	4712	67.2	47.0	1303

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Trials conducted in 2008 and 2009 at Clemson University (CU) reveal that peanut growers can apply land plaster a bit early (13 DAP) to manage their work load but will lose money from declines in yield and grade when calcium is applied late (50 DAP), says Jay Chapin, Extension peanut specialist.



Enfield, N.C., producer Jerry Hamill says he likes to be finished spreading land plaster by mid-July.

risk of reduced grade and yield, especially with the large-seeded Virginia peanuts, which make up 80 percent of production in South Carolina," he says.

Jerry Hamill, of Enfield, N.C., grows Virginia peanuts, many of which are sold in the shell at ballparks.

"We apply our land plaster starting in the middle of June over several weeks," Hamill says. "I like to be finished spreading it by July 14, before the peanuts close the middles (of the rows). But I don't want to put it on too early. We put on 1,400 to 1,500 pounds per acre."

Calcium Builds Better Peanuts

"Calcium is very important for the runner seed peanuts that we grow," says Donald Chase, Oglethorpe, Ga. "Our seed contract stipulates that you must use calcium. But benefits to using calcium go be-

yond yield. I think you have better, stronger pods and get better germinating seed with calcium.

"If you expect high yields, you use calcium," Chase says. "You need calcium in that pegging zone when the peg goes down into the soil. We put down about 1,000 pounds per acre."

Ward relies on land plaster from Archer Daniels Midland's (ADM) Southport, N.C., citric acid plant. "I've been using it for six or seven years, and it's worked," he says. "We spread a ton of it per acre. The large-seeded, Virginia peanuts have a higher calcium requirement than the runners, so it's especially important that we apply enough land plaster."

Better Grades And Profits

David Jordan, North Carolina State University Extension peanut specialist, says using calcium helps growers manage risk and increase profitability.

"Having elevated levels of supplemen-

tal calcium present in the top one to two inches of the soil helps out when the pods and the kernels are developing," Jordan says. "The calcium moves directly from the soil into the developing kernels and pods.

"While it's hard to consistently document a yield response from supplemental calcium in research plots, a very high percentage of the time market grades, both percentages of extra large kernels and total sound mature kernels of peanuts, increase," Jordan says.

The increase in these market grade factors can increase economic value significantly and, ultimately, bring in more revenue for the farmer, he says. PG

This article was written by Dan Zinkand and submitted by Karen Bernick Marketing Communications on behalf of GYP-SOIL/Beneficial Reuse Management. For more information on Gysoil brand gypsum, go to their Web site at www.gypsoil.com.

Gysoil Brand Gypsum

ADM recently entered into an agreement with the Gysoil Division of Beneficial Reuse Management to distribute gypsum produced at the Southport, N.C., plant. The product is marketed as Gysoil brand gypsum.

"Gysoil land plaster is a very pure, natural form of calcium that is a by-product from making food-grade citric acid," says Ron Chamberlain, Gysoil's Director of Gypsum Programs, Chicago, Ill. "It provides a very available form of calcium sulfate to the soil. If there's adequate rainfall - as little as eight inches in a region that averages 35 to 45 inches of rainfall - Gysoil will be readily available to the pegs so that they can take up the calcium.

"Growers who use calcium can, over time, help the soil develop better soil structure, which improves water infiltration and increases the presence of oxygen," Chamberlain says. "With more oxygen in the soil, residue breaks down better, which builds better soil. There is less stress to the plants, for example during drought, because there is a better soil environment." PG



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