An Economic Analysis of Alternatives Insecticides in the Management of Thrips and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus in Peanut

A. WRIGHT*, University of Georgia, Athens, 30602, N.B. SMITH, R. SIRINIVASAN, A.K. CULBREATH, R.C. KEMERAIT, R.S. TUBBS, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, A.K. HAGAN, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849

The economic feasibility of using new alternative insecticides will be examined through cost-benefit analysis to validate utilization of new insecticides when compared to using phorate and aldicarb, as well as no insecticide. Aldicarb and phorate have been popular insecticides for thrips control and suppression of tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) in peanut. The withdrawal of aldicarb, and potentially phorate, as an option presents a management challenge for producers for economic control. Newer cultivars such as Georgia-06G possess a high level of TSWV resistance. Thus, insecticides are now more critical to manage thrips damage than to suppress spotted wilt incidence. Newer, softer insecticides such as Admire Pro, Assail, Cruiser Maxx, Karate and Radiant are compared with aldicarb and phorate using two cultivars, Georgia Green and Georgia-06G. Three years, 2011 thru 2013, of yield and cost data are examined to estimate variable costs and net returns. The results will provide better recommendations on possible alternatives to aldicarb and phorate if both are withdrawn.