Early Season Management of Peanut Pod Rot

Many area peanut fields are approaching 60 to 75 days after planting. We are seeing a good peg/pod set and have an excellent yield potential. Pod rot treatments may be needed at this time in certain situations. There are two situations in which one should consider making a preventative application for peanut pod rot: if the field has a poor rotation (i.e. peanuts after peanuts) or the field has a history of significant pod rot in the past. If neither of these describes your field, then scout the field regularly (at least weekly), at multiple locations to determine if pod rot is present. In research, we are finding that it can take 20 samples to adequately represent a low infestation of pod rot. Recent research has shown better control and higher returns when the initial pod rot application is applied 60 to 70 days after planting. In the research conducted in Terry and Gaines Counties over the last three growing seasons, Abound at the full label rate (adjusted for the band sized), applied in a 20 inch band, with 20 gallons of water and followed by an irrigation of approximately ½ inch has been very effective. Abound provides control of the two most common pod rotting fungi, Pythium species and Rhizoctonia species. Many other products provide only Rhizoctonia control, which can allow for a significant increase in Pythium growth.

The two most common pod rotting fungi on the South Plains are pictured here:

**Rhizoctonia solani**

- Sunken, light to dark brown
- "dry" lesions
- May be difficult to distinguish from pythium pod rot

![Rhizoctonia solani](image)

**Pythium spp.**

- Dark brown to black
- "wet" or "greasy" lesions
- May have a white fungal growth in late stages
- May be difficult to distinguish from rhizoctonia pod rot

![Pythium spp.](image)