

EVALUATION OF ZIRAM 76 DF FOR RED SPOT CONTROL ON PEACHES, 2002

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Red spot is a common problem in Chilton County on light-skinned peaches. The cause of the disease is still unclear. One report suggests red spot is caused by an *Alternaria*-type fungus, but this has not been confirmed in Alabama. Ziram 76 DF has been observed to suppress red spot in South Carolina. This trial was conducted to determine if Ziram would reduce red spot severity in Alabama. Results indicate that the 4- and 5-pound rates of Ziram reduced red spot severity on peach fruit.

The experiment was conducted at the Chilton Research and Extension Center in Clanton, Alabama, in 2002. The test consisted of four treatments replicated four times in a randomized complete block design. All treatments including the control received two Bravo Weatherstik applications at petal fall and shuck split and one preharvest application of Orbit at standard rates. There were a total of 14 Ziram 76 DF applications applied weekly starting on April 18 and ending on July 19. Twenty fruit were

collected from each replication at harvest and the number of red spots per fruit was determined.

All Ziram 76 DF treatments performed better than the unsprayed control in reducing severity of red spot on peach fruit (see table). None of the treatments provided 100% control. There were no significant difference between the 4- and 5-pound rates of Ziram. The success of Ziram 76 DF in reducing red spot does suggest that the disease is caused by a fungal pathogen.

The recommendation in South Carolina calls for three to four applications of Ziram 76 DF at a rate of 4 pounds per acre beginning seven to 10 days after shuck split and reapplication every 14 days with a total of three to four applications, followed by standard cover spray program. In this trial, Ziram was applied weekly with a total of 14 applications, which may not be economical. In 2003, the experiment will be repeated and the recommendations suggested in South Carolina followed.

EFFECT OF ZIRAM 76 DF ON RED SPOT ON PEACHES, 2002

Treatment rate/acre ¹	Percent of fruit with red spots (ranging from 0 to 15<)			
	0	1-5	6-15	15<
Unsprayed control	46.2	16.2	12.5	25.0
Ziram 76 DF 3 lb	78.7	3.7	11.2	6.2
Ziram 76 DF 4 lb	92.5	1.2	3.7	2.5
Ziram 76 DF 5 lb	91.2	1.2	3.7	3.7

¹ Each treatment received 14 Ziram 76 DF applications.