

Peanut rust (034)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On peanuts, and other plants belonging to the genus *Arachis*. An important disease.
- Rust infects all parts of peanuts above ground: the red-brown spots produce masses of spores. Losses in pod yields of 40%.
- Spores spread in wind; infection needs water on plant surfaces, and high humidity.
- Cultural control: avoid planting next to old crops; leave at least 4 weeks between crops – rusts do not survive in plant debris or the soil; remove “volunteers”; inspect twice weekly; tolerant varieties.
- Chemical control: begin to spray as soon as spots are seen and no later than 30-35 days; use chlorothalonil (also effective against leaf spots) at 10-14 days until 14 days before harvest.

Common Name

Peanut rust

Scientific Name

Puccinia arachidis



Photo 1. Upper leaf surface showing typical yellowing of leaves at late stage of infection by *Puccinia arachidis*. The leaves dry up but remain attached.



Photo 2. Same leaf as in Photo 1, with the underside showing numerous orange-brown pustules where millions of spores of *Puccinia arachidis* are produced.



Photo 4. Severe attack of orange-brown spots of the rust, *Puccinia arachidis*.



Photo 3. Close up of the underside of peanut leaf with orange-brown spots of the rust, *Puccinia arachidis*.

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Information from DAF (2018) Rust. Queensland Government. (<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/plants/crops-pastures/broadacre-field-crops/managing-peanut-diseases/rust>); and CABI (undated) Ground leaf rust *Puccinia arachidis*. Plantwise Knowledge Bank (<https://www.plantwise.org/knowledgebank/datasheet/45745#DistributionSection>); and from Korus KA, Dufault N (undated) Peanut rust fungus: *Puccinia arachidis* Speg. UF/IFAS Extension (<https://sfl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sflifasufiedu/alachua/word/images/pdf/Peanut-Rust.pdf>). Photo 4 McKenzie E (2013) *Puccinia arachidis* PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

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