

BOOK REVIEW

"PEST CONTROL IN GROUNDNUTS"

PANS Manual No. 2, London, 197 pp.

This completely revised edition on the pest control in peanuts maintains the high standard of the PANS Manual series.

The Introduction contains short notes on the distribution, botany, agronomy and breeding of the crop and is followed by a short section on weeds and herbicides.

The section on diseases is conveniently divided into air-borne and soil-borne fungal diseases, followed by bacterial, virus and physiological diseases.

The illustrations are good, and the various diseases are treated very adequately under symptoms, development and spread of the disease, resistant varieties and cultural and chemical control. The latter lists many of the common fungicides giving formulations and recommended rates of application as well as notes on their effects.

In some cases there have been name changes since the book was published, (e.g. *Cercospora personata* is now *Cercosporidium personatum*). Also, even since the book was revised in 1973, the spread of some diseases e.g. peanut rust, has increased considerably.

Some of the diseases described are not yet present in Papua New Guinea, e.g. Rosette, caused by a virus, but it is an advantage to have knowledge of these so that growers can be on the lookout for them, in case any new diseases enter this country despite quarantine restrictions.

The section dealing with insects and mites is similarly well illustrated and comprehensive, with distribution, symptoms, life cycle and control being discussed for each species treated. There is also a useful section on storage insects and their control.

Each section has a short bibliography, and there are check lists of diseases and insects as well as the index.

The booklet is written with some degree of technical language, but it will be a suitable reference book for anyone with training in agriculture.

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