The North Carolina Sclerotinia advisory is a cooperative effort by the State Climate Office of North Carolina and the Department of Plant Pathology at NC State University. The advisory helps to identify periods that are favorable for Sclerotinia blight development so that protective sprays can be applied.

Sclerotinia advisories account for favorable weather only; they do not account for field history. Fields with no history of disease do not need to be sprayed unless a new outbreak is confirmed. In fields with a history of disease, careful scouting should begin the second week in July.

There are two advisories for each location. Use the advisory for row index = 2 if rows are within 6” of touching. Use the advisory for row index = 3 if rows are touching. Sprays normally are not needed if rows are more than 6” apart.

The row index and today’s advisory are circled in the sample Sclerotinia advisory above.

Line-by-line advisory details:

**Date and location** - ECONET stations are indicated by an abbreviated name; airport stations are indicated by call letters. In general, ECONET stations are more reliable than airport stations.

**Station location**

**Sclerotinia index values** for the last 5 days. Three index values are given for each day:

- **MI** - moisture index. MI = 1 if RH is 95% or higher for at least 8 consecutive hours OR if there has been one-half inch of rain in the past 5 days OR 1 inch of rain in the last 10 days. If MI = 1, the advisory output lists all the moisture criteria that have been satisfied. If your rainfall history is different from that listed, the advisory may not apply to you. MI = 0 if moisture is too low for disease.

- **TI** - temperature index. TI = 0 when the day’s average temperature is more than 82.4°F; TI = 1 at 77.1 to 82.4°F; TI = 2 at 71.7 to 77.1°F; and TI = 3 at 71.7°F or lower.

- **EI** - environmental index. EI = MI x TI. EI is multiplied by 3 times the row index to give a daily index value (not shown in the output).

**Row index** – circled above. Use the advisory for row index = 2 for rows within 6” of touching. Use the advisory for row index = 3 for rows touching.

**setDate** - used to calculate the advisory

**Five day index** – this is the total of daily index values for the past 5 days. A spray is advised when the five day index is greater than 32.

**Last effective spray date (LESD)** - regardless of today’s advisory, you do not need to spray if you have sprayed since the LESD. The LESD accounts for 21 days of protection provided by the fungicide.

**Advisory** – circled above. If the advisory is “spray today” conditions are favorable for Sclerotinia blight and you should spray if no Sclerotinia fungicide has been applied in the past 21 days. If the advisory is “do not spray today” a spray is not required.

**Disease level** - disease hazard based on the five day index is rated as low (<32), moderate (32-47), high (48-98), or very high (>99).

**Growing degree days** - for peanuts (base 56) since the LESD and since May 1.

**Records count** - number of hourly weather observations out of total possible observations. A large number of missing observations indicate that the advisory may not be reliable due to missing weather data.

**Most recent hourly observation** – should be 6 or 7 a.m. on today’s date.