Peanuts in the V-C region during the past two weeks have received significant rain that has removed drought stress in most fields. However, rain has been excessive in some pockets but generally more modest across the region. Less rainfall throughout the season thus far has been experienced in the lower region of North Carolina and in South Carolina compared with the upper V-C region (North Carolina and Virginia) (Table 1). Heat unit accumulation has been relatively good across the region with DD_{56} heat units ranging from 1597 in Wakefield, Virginia (May 15 through July 29) to 1910 in Florence, South Carolina. There is concern that heat unit accumulation is slightly lower than the long-term average, and given some growers planted later than normal in a significant number of fields, crop maturation could be an issue at harvest. It is also anticipated that crop development may have slowed somewhat in June due to dry weather in some areas of the region. On average, approximately 21 DD_{56} heat units accumulate at Lewiston-Woodville (August 16 to September 15) and 14 DD_{56} units accrue from September 16 to October 15. A more complete analysis of heat unit accumulation will be provided in the next report including scenarios for different planting dates, especially in contrast to the 2017 growing season. In addition to significant rain over the past two weeks, cloudy conditions have been persistent in many areas and this serves to slow crop development. However, partly cloudy conditions are more likely during the week of August 1.

Many growers are applying their third fungicide spray for leaf spot and stem rot in the upper V-C region. Growers in the lower V-C region are on their fourth spray. Wet field conditions across the region are beginning to increase concern about managing leaf spot and stem rot disease with fungicides. Even in fields with sandy soils growers are beginning to experience delays in fungicide applications at a time when epidemics are potentially developing in the lower canopy. Growers may be considering applications of prohexadione calcium to manage vine growth, especially if the forecast is for above-average rain over the next few weeks. While concerns over spider mites and lesser corn stalk borer have decreased substantially, fields are at elevated risk from corn rootworm because of rain as well as the potential for Sclerotinia blight in the upper V-C region. Although generally below economic threshold levels, foliar-feeding insects are present in many fields.

Growers in the V-C region have 4 to 6 weeks remaining before significant digging will begin. The majority of peanut in the upper V-C region most likely will not be dug until the last week of September and into October, especially with delays in planting. The bulk of growers in the lower V-C region most likely will begin digging during the second week of September.

The peanut crop in the V-C region continues to show promise but near optimum conditions continue to be needed for the remainder of this season for high yields and market grades. If excessive rain occurs over the next few weeks, the yield estimate

most likely will be lowered. Currently the yield projection remains at 4,420 kg/ha (3,950 lbs/acre).

2018 Rainfall (inches) and Heat Unit Accumulation (DD_{56})†						
Parameter and time interval	**Wakefield VA**	**Lewiston NC**	**Kinston NC**	**Whiteville NC**	**Florence SC**	**Orangeburg SC**
Rainfall (inches)						
May 15-June 14	8.6	8.9	8.0	6.7	6.3	8.7
June 15-July 14	7.1	6.2	3.9	4.3	4.8	2.9
July 15-July 29	5.1	7.9	4.6	2.0	5.9	5.8
Sum	20.8	23.0	16.5	13.0	17.0	17.4
Heat units (DD_{56})						
May 15-July 29	1597	1644	1711	1736	1910	1819
†Data are from the State Climate Office of North Carolina - CRONOS Database **(**https://climate.ncsu.edu/cronos**)**						

Peanut field flooded after excessive rain near Plymouth, North Carolina on July 25.

Peanut canopy after rainfall event on July 25 near Plymouth, North Carolina.

Peanut at Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina, on July 24 with a planting date of May 9.

Peanut pod and kernels at Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina, on August 1 with a planting date of May 9.

Peanut on July 24 near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina with a planting date of May 30.

Peanut near Plymouth, North Carolina on June 25.

Palmer amaranth removed by hand from a peanut field near Whiteville, North Carolina on July 30.

Deposition of fungicide in the upper portion of the peanut canopy immediately after application on July 30 near Whiteville, North Carolina.

Foliar-feeding insects in the canopy near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina on August 1.