

Peanut planting in the Virginia-Carolina region has progressed relatively well over the past two weeks. The estimate of planted acreage in the upper portion of the Virginia-Carolina region is 90%. In the lower portion of Virginia-Carolina region (southeastern North Carolina and South Carolina,) the projection of planted area is lower at 65%. Most peanut fields planted in early to mid-May have adequate plant stands with minimal weed infestation. In some areas of the region the wet April limited primary and secondary tillage operations. Once soil dried and farmers could complete these operations, including subsoiling and bedding, soil moisture was depleted. Hot and dry weather conditions and relatively high winds also contributed to rapid loss of soil moisture. Farmers in some areas have decided to cease planting operations until rainfall occurs. While the optimum planting window is the entire month of May in the Virginia-Carolina region, peanut yields can be average and even above average when planted in early June. The primary concern with planting in June is whether or not peanuts can reach optimum maturity in the fall. Other concerns include potentially higher temperatures during pollination and greater incidence of some diseases. However, peanut will progress rapidly once rainfall occurs and peanuts are planted. Optimum yield has the potential of being realized even with June plantings.

Current projections for the region are 40,480 ha (100,000 acres) in North Carolina, 26,300 ha (65,000 acres) in South Carolina, and 9,700 ha (24,000 acres) in Virginia. The yield estimate for the Virginia-Carolina region is 4,480 kg/ha (4,000 pounds/acre).

Figure 1. Peanut field near Rocky Mount, North Carolina, prepared for planting but with limited moisture for seed germination.





Figure 2. Peanut stand on May 20 near Whiteville, North Carolina when planted May 1.



Figure 3. Peanut field planted May 20 near Whiteville, North Carolina.



Figure 4. Variation in seedling stages on May 20 near Whiteville, North Carolina when peanut was planted May 1.



