

The early part of 2019 had us going from one extreme with fields being very wet before it came time for planters with peanut seed to make their way across fields, to turning hot and dry real fast towards the latter part of May. In some cases, this impacted residual herbicide activation but folks for the most part kept fields moving along and the crop in good condition overall. All's well that ends well, and hopefully the conditions we get during these next few months as we start to shift gears into harvest season will help us in this.

Summarized in the table here are our digging date trial results over 2017 and 2018 growing seasons. Planting dates for the trial was May 16 in 2017 and May 14 in 2018. Degree day accumulation (base 56°F) at each digging date since emergence averaged over the two years was 2954 (131 DAP), 3139 (141 DAP), 3408 (154 DAP), and 3453 (163 DAP). Overall, Virginia market types were most profitable when harvested after 131 to 141 DAP, and many of the runner types were most profitable during the 154 DAP harvest. These differences weren't always significant for every variety.

2017-2018 digging date trial, Blackville, SC.

| Market type | Variety | Dig date (DAP) | Acre Value (\$/A) | Grouping | Yield (lb/A) | Grouping | TSMK (%) | Grouping | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| Virginia | Bailey | 131 | 731 | A | 4323 | A | 65.9 | B | |
| | | 141 | 826 | A | 4783 | A | 64.7 | B | |
| | | 154 | 624 | B | 3518 | B | 68.7 | A | |
| | Bailey II | 131 | 690 | | 4165 | | 66.6 | | |
| | | 141 | 754 | | 4296 | | 68.7 | | |
| | | 154 | 710 | | 4088 | | 68.6 | | |
| | Emery (2017 only) | 131 | 759 | | 4585 | | 64.3 | B | |
| | | 141 | 745 | | 4536 | | 63.3 | B | |
| | | 154 | 705 | | 4007 | | 68.2 | A | |
| | Sullivan | 131 | 810 | | 4919 | | 64.2 | B | |
| | | 141 | 768 | | 4716 | | 63.3 | B | |
| | | 154 | 756 | | 4329 | | 68.3 | A | |
| | Wynne | 131 | 763 | A | 4451 | A | 69.4 | | |
| | | 141 | 801 | A | 4900 | A | 65.1 | | |
| | | 154 | 609 | B | 3573 | B | 68.6 | | |
| | Runner | AU-NPL-17 | 141 | 780 | B | 4551 | B | 69.3 | |
| | | | 154 | 961 | A | 5643 | A | 70.1 | |
| | | | 163 | 804 | B | 4674 | B | 70.6 | |
| FloRun331 (2018 only) | | 141 | 915 | | 5417 | | 70.1 | | |
| | | 154 | 949 | | 5655 | | 69.6 | | |
| | | 163 | 979 | | 5764 | | 69.9 | | |
| Georgia 06G | | 141 | 860 | | 5093 | | 69.3 | | |
| | | 154 | 973 | | 5661 | | 70.8 | | |
| | | 163 | 869 | | 4968 | | 71.7 | | |
| Georgia 13M | | 141 | 775 | B | 4872 | B | 63.9 | B | |
| | | 154 | 1012 | A | 6134 | A | 66.4 | B | |
| | | 163 | 987 | A | 5757 | AB | 69.8 | A | |
| Georgia 16HO | | 141 | 908 | | 5372 | | 69.8 | B | |
| | | 154 | 1031 | | 5996 | | 70.6 | B | |
| | | 163 | 963 | | 5371 | | 74.1 | A | |
| TUFRunner 297 | | 141 | 915 | | 5472 | | 68.4 | B | |
| | | 154 | 985 | | 5640 | | 71.5 | A | |
| | | 163 | 896 | | 5020 | | 68.3 | B | |
| TUFRunner 511 | 141 | 895 | | 5211 | AB | 71.1 | | | |
| | 154 | 939 | | 5463 | A | 70.3 | | | |
| | 163 | 807 | | 4615 | B | 71.8 | | | |

Since each field and crop can move at slightly different rates towards optimal maturity, everything we can do to promote crop health will improve our chances of reaching peak harvest potential. This includes keeping vines protected with fungicides in case rains delay field access or if cooler fall temperatures slow heat unit accumulation and maturity development. Checking fields for maturity 10 to 14 days ahead of anticipated digging dates can help prevent maturity from surprising us if fields have moved quicker than we thought. Based on observations, parts of fields that were under stress close to harvest last year appeared to have more advanced maturity than non-stressed parts of the field. This included sandier parts under drought stress, or parts with leaf spot. We are looking into some of this more to see what kind of numbers we can garner from it, but for the time being it may be more of a side note. As we're digging, if we do notice some fields having greater digging losses, making a note of that now can help us keep an eye on those areas next year to destroy volunteers that emerge. Peanut volunteers can be pretty hardy and can come up at different times, but helping get rid of them (setting them free with Liberty, for example, or a stiff dose of Roundup) will help reduce problems down the road including development of fungicide resistance. The wet harvest in 2018 contributed to digging losses, and many of us saw increased volunteers earlier this year as a result of this, which seemed to add to the thrips injury early on including on cotton. Each year is a little different from the one before. At the very least, it keeps things interesting. Hopefully the rest of the year will be kind to us, including a good harvest.