

The majority of the Virginia-Carolina region was not impacted by Hurricane Dorian in a negative way. While some ponding of water in fields occurred, most fields have drained relatively well and peanut continue to progress in a positive manner. Rainfall from the hurricane is captured in data from September 1-8. Some areas of the region needed additional rainfall to continue the maturation process and soften soils so that digging operations can be efficient with minimal pods loss. While peanut planted in June will need adequate rainfall through September and October, Hurricane Dorian provided soil moisture that will push the crop late into September. Unfortunately, some areas had lower amounts and will need additional rain sooner rather than later. This is particularly evident in the lower V-C region and the upper V-C region, and as one moves to the western edge of the coastal plain and to the north (see table.) Heat unit accumulation from several dates in May and June through September 8 are provided for seven locations across the coastal plain of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia (see table.) These data provide the earliest possible date from seedling emergence to optimum pod maturity. For example, Virginia market type peanut typically require a minimum of 2600 GDD<sub>56</sub> to reach optimum maturity. At Whiteville, peanut emerging May 8 would have accumulated almost 2800 GDD<sub>56</sub>. The peanuts at this location are close to optimum maturity but could be left in the field for another 4-5 days to gain greater yield and quality (see samples collected on September 10.) Cloudy conditions experienced over the past week likely slowed maturation even though soil moisture was readily available and temperatures were adequate.

Peanut vines are in excellent shape across most of the region with respect to disease. However, impacts of drought earlier in the season and lower-than-desired plant stands will have some impact on yield, although peanuts in these fields are much improved and are making up ground. Conditions for stem rot has declined, and while conditions have been more favorable for Sclerotinia blight in recent weeks, no major outbreaks have been noted. In fields with timely fungicide sprays, leaf spot disease has been controlled relatively well. However, at least one more late-season spray is advised for many fields, and perhaps sprays in late-September may be needed depending on weather patterns and crop maturity. While a significant number of farmers need a warm and moist September and October for peanut to reach maturity because of late planting, these conditions likely will create risk for leaf spot disease well into the fall. Rust was observed in the lower V-C region and was likely spread from the southern US by Hurricane Dorian.

Less than 0.5% of peanut acreage across the region has been dug. However, growers will begin digging during the week of September 16. Pod maturity in some areas of the region appears to be more advanced than in some years. Yield potential for the region remains at 4,260 kg/ha (3,800 pounds/acre.) Estimates for planted area in the region

remain at 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.

Table 1. Rainfall totals (inches) across the Virginia-Carolina region in May, June, July, and through September 8, 2019.					
Location	May	June	July	August	Through Sep 8
Wakefield, VA	5.3	9.8	5.3	5.8	1.1
Lewiston-Woodville, NC	1.5	2.7	6.1	7.9	3.1
Rocky Mount, NC	2.4	3.8	2.5	6.4	3.4
Clinton, NC	2.0	4.3	5.5	10.6	8.3
Whiteville, NC	0.1	0.1	4.3	4.7	5.4
Florence, SC	2.4	3.6	5.5	6.2	2.8
Orangeburg, SC	1.3	1.9	2.9	7.2	0.4

Table 2. Heat unit accumulation (DD <sub>56</sub> ) from May 1, May 15, June 1, and June 15 through September 8, 2019.				
Location	May 1	May 15	May 30	June 15
Wakefield, VA	2750	2544	2214	1978
Lewiston-Woodville, NC	2826	2619	2259	2019
Rocky Mount, NC	2869	2650	2290	1839
Clinton, NC	2948	2717	2334	2071
Whiteville, NC	2953	2727	2353	2080
Florence, SC	3291	3029	2602	2297
Orangeburg, SC	2947	2729	2368	2116

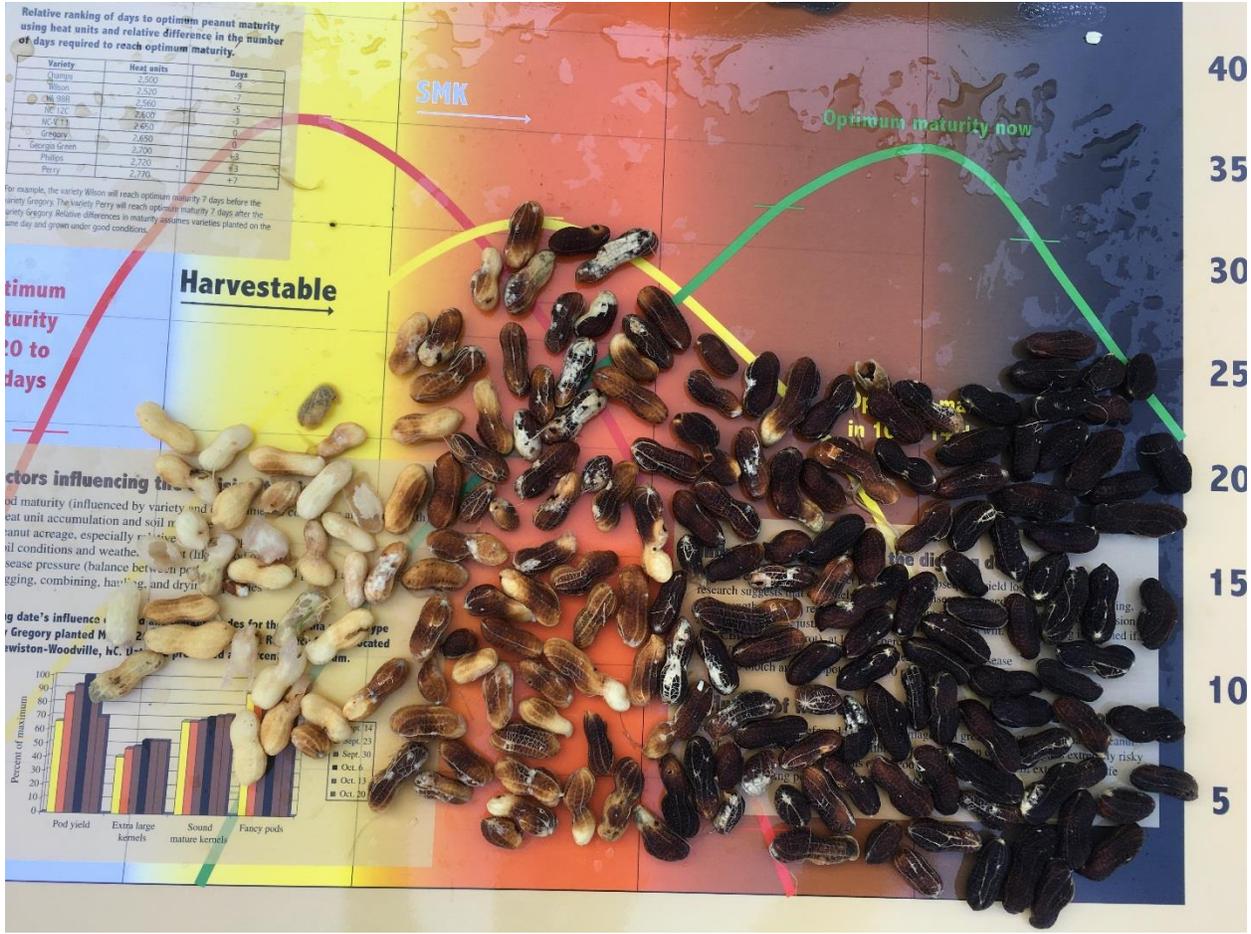
Peanut dug at Whiteville on September 10.



Late spot and rust only on peanut leaves at Whiteville, NC on September 10.







Evidence of a previous infestation by spider mites. Rainfall from Hurricane Dorian greatly reduced conditions favorable for spider mite development.



Peanut field near Hamilton, NC on September 12.



Fungicide deposition in the peanut canopy near Hamilton, NC on September 12.

