

Warm and dry weather has been the rule across the Virginia-Carolina region during the past two weeks. Unseasonably high temperatures during the week of September 23 have helped peanut planted in early to mid-June make significant gains in pod maturation. However, many areas have limited soil moisture and this can impact the maturation process even though temperatures are conducive to rapid development. Leaf spot disease has been controlled well in most fields due to in part to environmental conditions not being conducive to excessive disease development and growers employing effective fungicide spray programs. Weather conditions have generally not favored Sclerotinia blight in the upper Virginia-Carolina region.

Approximately 65% of peanut fields have been dug across the region through Sep 27. Approximately 30% of these fields have been harvested. Field conditions over the past two weeks have been fantastic for field operations. The excellent drying weather coupled with a crop that has matured quickly in many areas has enabled farmers to make great progress in getting peanuts harvested. Pod color and brightness due to dry conditions have been optimum for the in-shell trade. However, soils in some field have become hard and this could increase pod loss during digging and decrease yield. The weather forecast for the next 10 days is dry and warm, and this could enable growers who planted during early to mid-May to complete harvest operations by October 10. Growers who planted in June may need to leave peanut in fields until late October and into November. 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, September 1-8, and from September 10 to 27 during 2019.

Location	May	June	July	August	Sep 1-9	Sep 10-27
Wakefield, VA	5.3	9.8	5.3	5.8	1.1	0.2
Lewiston-Woodville, NC	1.5	2.7	6.1	7.9	3.8	0.2
Rocky Mount, NC	2.4	3.8	2.5	6.4	3.4	1.3
Clinton, NC	2.0	4.3	5.5	10.6	8.3	0.4
Whiteville, NC	0.1	0.1	4.3	4.7	5.4	0.1
Florence, SC	2.4	3.6	5.5	6.2	2.8	0.7
Orangeburg, SC	1.3	1.9	2.9	7.2	0.4	0.1

Peanut recently dug near Oak City, NC. Image recorded September 25.



Peanut on near Lewiston-Woodville, NC on September 25 after being dug on September 19.



Peanut plants close to optimum pod maturity on September 25 near Lewiston-Woodville, NC. Plants shift nutrient allocation from foliage to maturing pods during this phase of development.





Peanut pods immediately after harvest near Whiteville, NC on September 19 under good field conditions for both digging, drying in windrows and harvesting.



Peanut pod maturity on September 17 near Lewiston-Woodville when peanut was planted in early May.



