

The week of October 1 experienced temperatures well above average while the weekend of October 5 and the week of October 7 had lower temperatures more aligned with the season. Precipitation has been minor across the region but did slow some field operations. Weather predictions through the weekend of October 12 are considered good for field operations, although rain is expected during the week of October 14. Soil in some fields has become hard due to dry weather and growers are delaying digging until the week of October 14 with hopes that rain occurs and soils can soften to avoid pod loss during this operation. In most instances conditions have favored clean pods that are needed for the in-shell trade. However, rain over the weekend of October 5 and into the week of October has caused some discoloration of pods.

Approximately 98% of peanut fields have been dug and harvested in Virginia while 90% have been dug in South Carolina with estimates of 80% harvested. In North Carolina, later plantings due to dry conditions in late May has resulted in some delays in digging and harvesting. This is particularly evident in the southeastern portion of the state but is also the case for scattered farmers through the central and northern coastal plain. Estimates are that 80% of peanuts are dug and 60% harvested in North Carolina. Maturity of late-planted peanuts is approaching optimum but still needs two more weeks in some cases (see image of peanut planted June 20.) However, cooler temperatures from October 5 to October 11 may slow this process, and in some areas of the region soils are dry and maturation has slowed.

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.

Peanut recently dug and dry near Oak City, NC. Image recorded October 4.

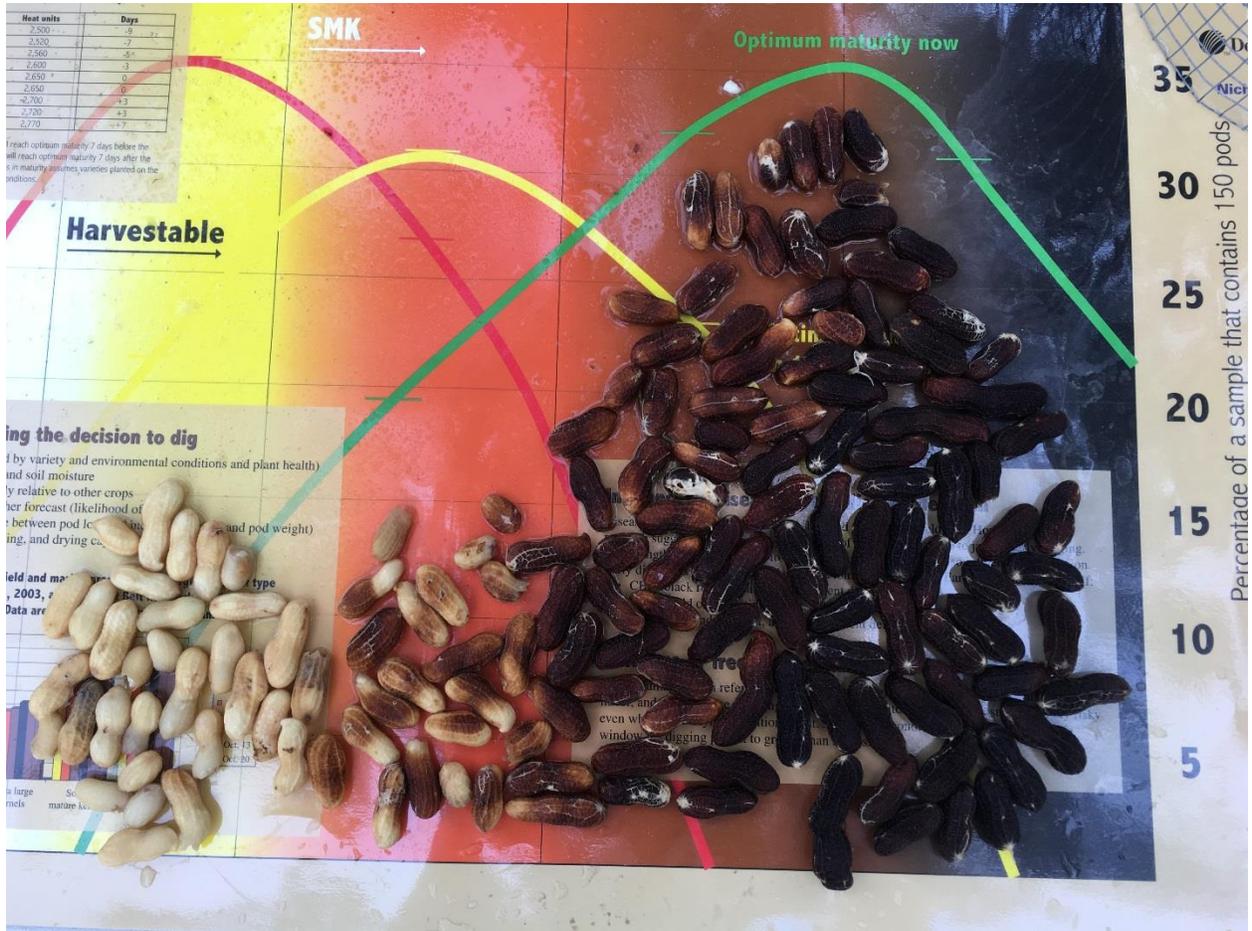


Peanut pod maturity near Lewiston-Woodville, NC on October 9 when planted May 24, June 10, and June 14. The gap in differences in planting dates and peanuts for those planting dates reaching optimum maturity is often shorter because peanuts planted later in the season accumulate more heat units in a shorter period of time than earlier planted peanuts. Peanuts planted May 24 were dug October 10 while peanuts planted June 10 or 14 will be dug the week of October 14.

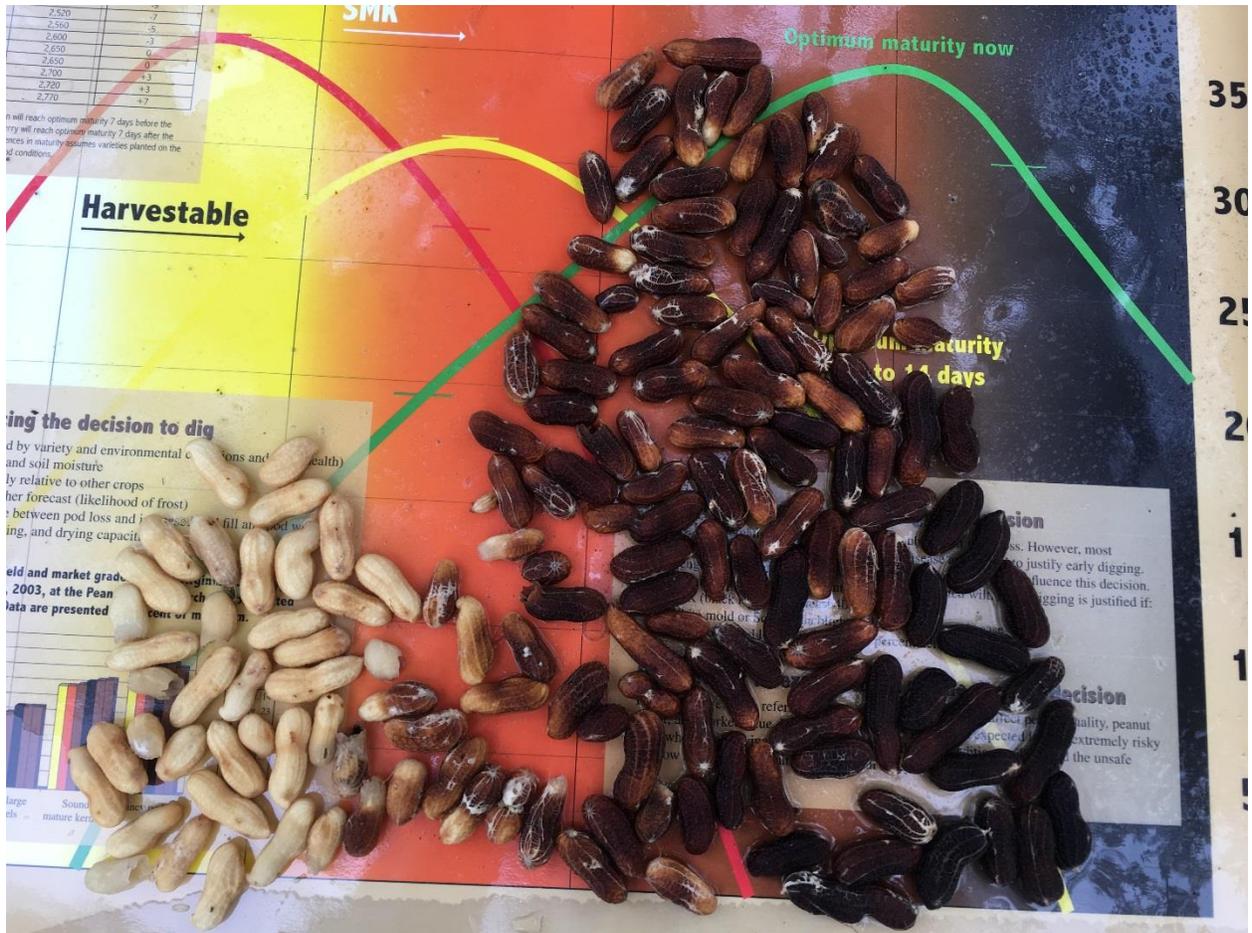
May 24



June 10



June 14



Change in pod maturation from October 2 to October 9 near Lewiston-Woodville in North Carolina when peanut was planted on June 20.

Image recorded October 2

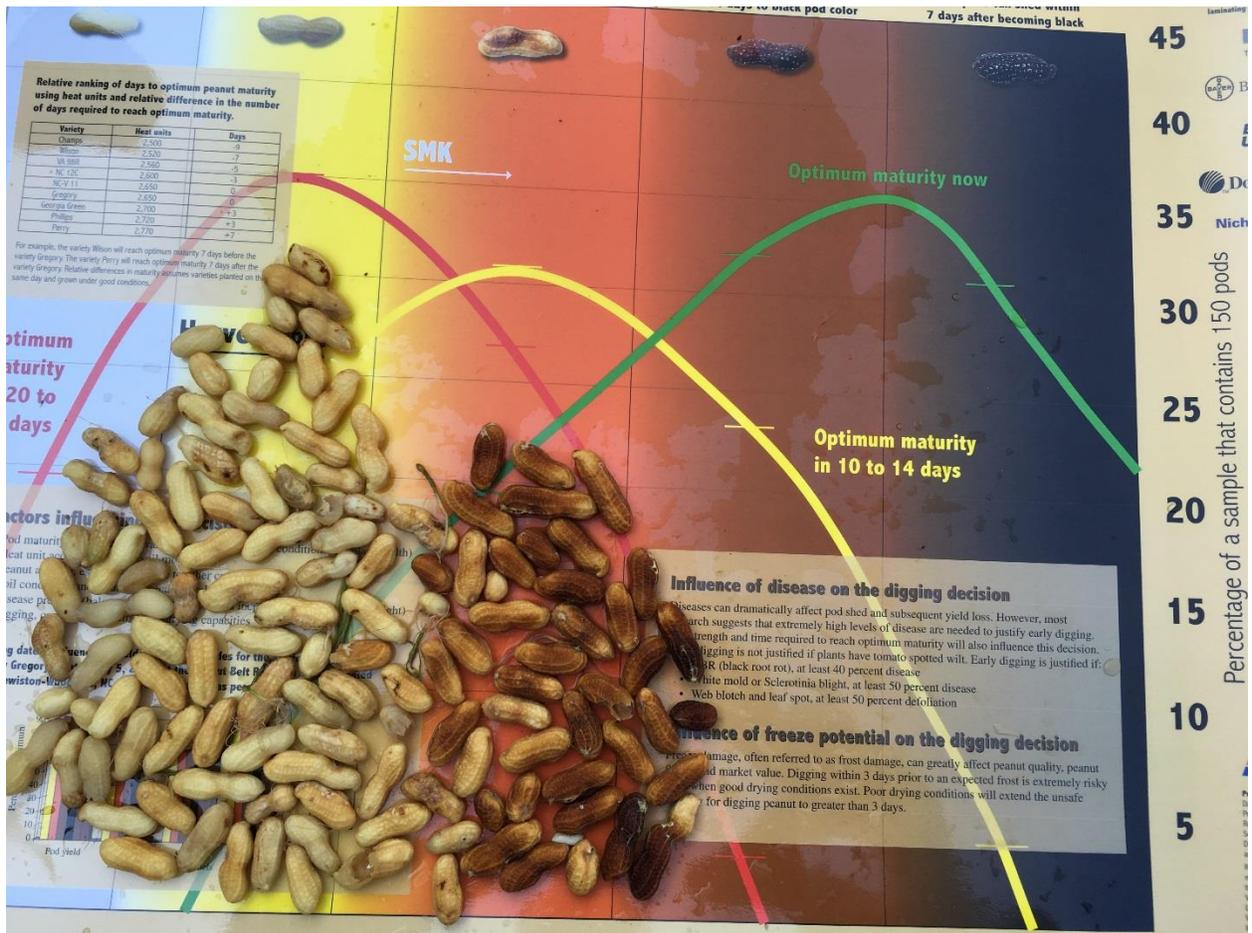


Image recorded October 9

