

Below normal temperatures across the Virginia-Carolina region have caused many growers to delay planting operations even though conditions have been favorable for field operations. The weekend on May 9 experienced air temperatures in the high 30 to low 40 (Fahrenheit) range. While soil temperatures are buffered against fluctuations in air temperatures, soils remained cool because of the air temperatures that were present during the week of May 4-8. In many areas, especially in the upper Virginia-Carolina region, soil temperatures moved from low 70s to low to mid 60s over the past week. However, a warming trend is expected during the latter part of the week of May 11 with air temperatures approaching 90 F by the weekend of May 16. Less than 15% of projected planting has taken place at the time of this report (May 12.) Dry soil conditions may become a more significant issue over the next 10 days as rainfall patterns are not encouraging at the present time.

Estimated planted area in North Carolina is 100,000 acres (40,500 ha). In South Carolina, 75,000 acres (30,400 ha) are estimated for 2020 while in Virginia 20,000 acres (8,100 ha) are expected to be planted. In North Carolina and Virginia runner market types will occupy between 5 and 10% of planted area with the balance in Virginia market type varieties. The market type balance in South Carolina will be 60% runner and 40% Virginia. The yield estimate going into planting is 4,000 pounds/acre farmer stock (4,500 kg/ha) across the region.

Field prepared for planting near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on May 12.



Peanut field planted on May 12 near Rocky Mount, NC.



Peanut seed in furrow immediately after planting.



Peanut planted near Lewiston-Woodville, NC on May 5.



Peanut seed in the ground immediately after planting near Lewiston-Woodville, NC on May 5.



Beds prepared near Lewiston-Woodville, NC on May 5

