

Table 10-1. Peanut Growth Stages and Descriptions

Approximate Number of Days After Planting*	Growth Stage	Description
7	Emergence	Seedling "cracking" the ground and cotyledons visible
45	Flower (R1)	One-half of the plants with a bloom
55	Beginning Peg (R2)	First visible peg
70	Beginning Pod (R3)	Peg tip swollen to twice the peg diameter
75	Full Pod (R4)	Fully-expanded pod, to dimensions characteristic of the variety
80	Beginning Pod-Fill (R5)	Pod in which seed is visible in cross-section
90	Full Size Seed (R6)	Seed is filling the pod cavity
130	Beginning Maturity (R7)	Pods having interior hull color and orange to brown mesocarp
150 – 160	Harvest Maturity (R8)	70% of harvestable pods have an orange, brown, or black mesocarp (scrape pod saddle with knife) and interior hull color (crack pod open)
165 – 170	Over-mature (R9)	Kernels in oldest pod develop tan-brown seed coat and pegs may have deteriorated; over-mature pods have coal-black mesocarp color.

*Based on average of 30 Virginia market type peanut varieties planted on May 1 at Tidewater AREC. The numbers of days after planting increase for earlier and decrease for later plantings. If June is dry, these numbers are bigger from R1 through R4 and smaller afterwards.

Table 10-2. Approximate Number of Days Between Planting and Various Stages of Peanut Development*

Development Stage	Calendar Date or Days after Planting			
	May 1	May 15	June 1	June 15
Emergence	May 10 (10)	May 22 (7)	June 6 (5)	June 20 (5)
Flower (R1)	June 15 (45)	June 25 (40)	July 13 (38)	July 23 (38)
Peg (R2)	June 25 (55)	July 5 (50)	July 23 (48)	Aug 3 (48)
Full pod (R4)	July 15 (75)	July 25 (70)	Aug 10 (65)	Aug 20 (65)
65% brown/black mesocarp development	Sep 25 (145)	Oct 5 (140)	Oct 20 (140)	Nov 15 (150)

*Assumes adequate moisture and temperature throughout the season. Estimates are from timing of planting to 65% flowering, pegging, full pod, and brown/black mesocarp color. Cool night temperatures after October 5 could decrease the rate of maturation and negatively impact yield. Peanut planted after June 1 will be in the process of maturing after October 1, and this creates substantial risk. If temperatures are in the high 40°F for two nights in a row, maturity will most likely cease for the remainder of the season and yield will be lower than yield of peanut planted earlier in the season. The predictions of maturity presented

here are no substitute for pod blasting (assessing pod mesocarp color) two or three times in September through October to determine actual maturity in the field.