

The peanut crop in the Virginia-Carolina region received adequate moisture and heat unit accumulation through the latter part of August and into mid-September for predictable growth and development. Heat unit accumulation values associated with various starting dates in May and June through September 21 are provided in the table. A major challenge across the Virginia-Carolina region is the cooler temperatures during the week of September 21 and the potential impact on further maturation of pods and kernels. This trend began late during the week September 14. For example, at Clinton, NC heat unit accumulation from September 1-14 averaged 22 DD₅₆ F per day. At the same location, the daily average was 15 DD₅₆ F from September 15-18 but only 5 DD₅₆ F per day from September 19-21. Clinton is centrally located in the Virginia-Carolina region. The Virginia market types grown in the region require approximately 2600 DD₅₆ F to reach optimum pod maturity.

Cool temperatures are expected through the week of September 28 with several days of early morning temperatures in the high 40 F. Pod maturation often does not continue when peanuts experience temperatures in this range for two days in a row. Although warmer weather can increase pod maturity even after these lower temperatures are experienced, the rate of progress can be relatively slow. Unfortunately, the projected temperatures over the next 10 days may not be high enough to increase maturity at a rapid pace. There is considerable concern as to whether or not a mature crop will be harvested across the Virginia-Carolina region. This is especially the case in the middle and upper Virginia-Carolina region and for peanuts planted in June. Growers will need to be patient with the peanut crop and allow as much maturation to occur as possible. Some growers are considering investment in additional digging equipment so they can leave peanuts in the field to mature as long as possible but have the equipment in place to dig and harvest quickly in case weather conditions are unfavorable.

Growers are making a final application of fungicide to control leaf spot disease, although epidemics of this disease will be minor from this point forward given the cooler temperatures. Stem rot is not a major issue at this point because of the cooler temperatures. However, some growers are observing Sclerotinia blight and are considering a fungicide application to control the causal pathogen, especially for peanuts that need to stay in the field for three or more weeks. Adequate soil moisture and cooler temperatures increase the likelihood of additional Sclerotinia blight in the middle and upper sections of the Virginia-Carolina region.

Less than 10% of the peanut crop in the Virginia-Carolina region is currently dug with 1% or less harvested. Hurricane Sally did not adversely affect the peanut crop in the Virginia-Carolina region, although some fields in the northern section of the region are slowly drying out.

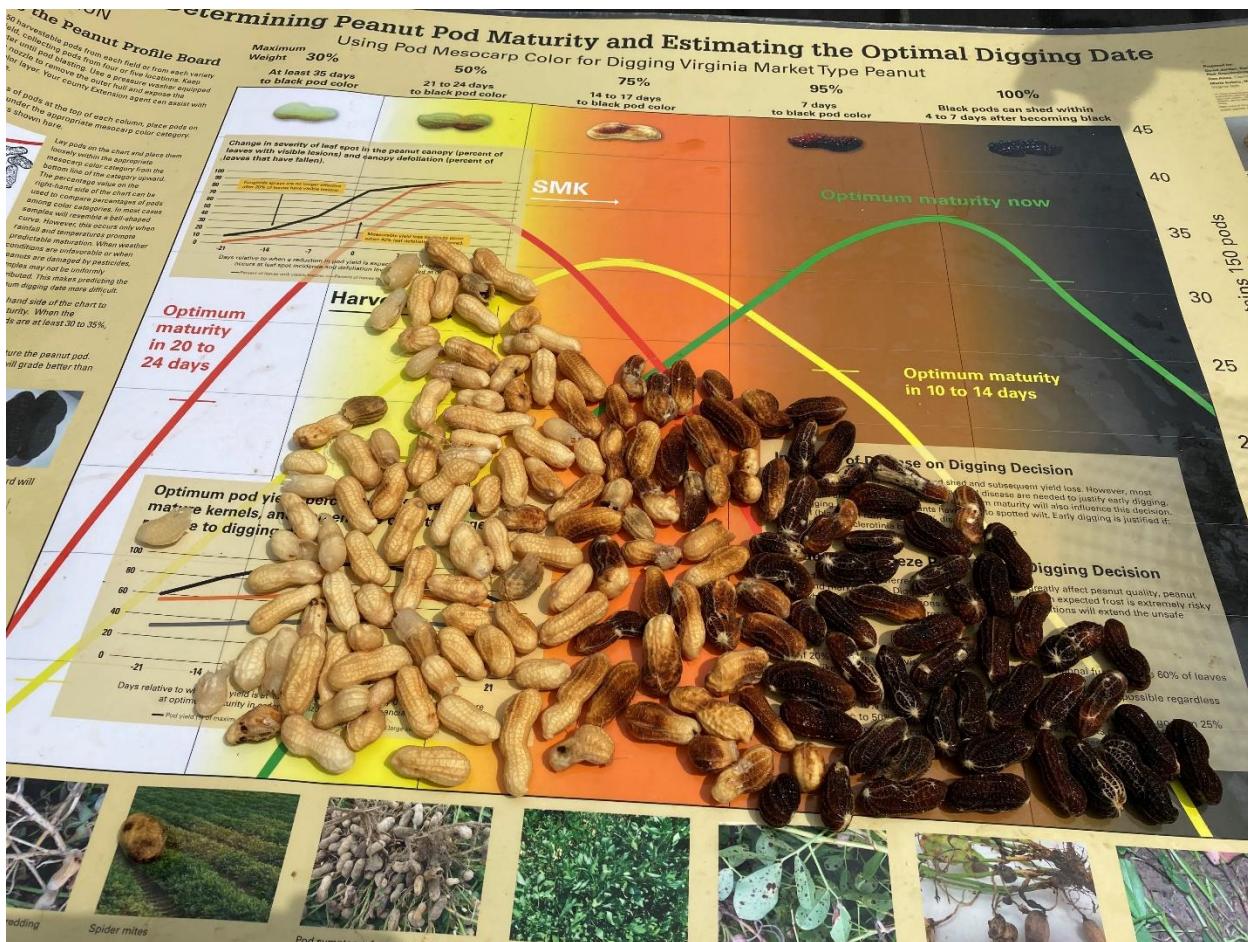
Yield potential in the region has been lowered to 3,800 pounds/acre farmer stock (4,260 kg/ha) because of concerns about the lower temperatures during the final few weeks of the traditional window of pod maturation. If peanuts do not progress due to cooler weather, this yield estimate may decrease for the next crop report.

Progression of pod maturation on September 1, 8, and 16 near Whiteville, NC. Peanuts in this field were planted on May 10 and were dug and vines inverted on September 16.

September 1



September 8



September 16





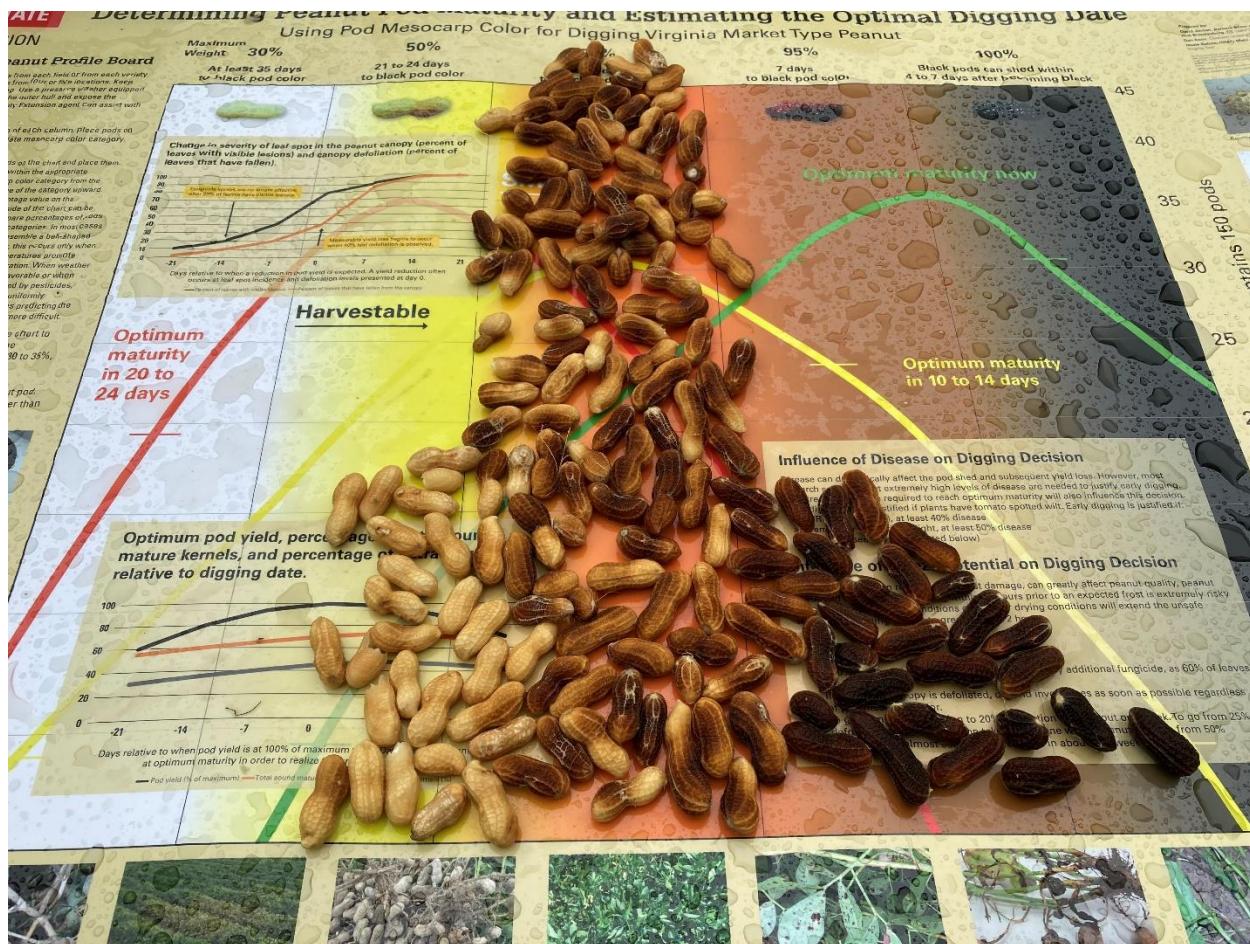


Pod maturation of peanuts from fields near Rocky Mount and Lewiston-Woodville, NC on September 15.

Rocky Mount (planted in mid-May)



Lewiston-Woodville (planted May 4)



Lewiston-Woodville (planted in mid-May)



Peanuts dug on September 23 near Lewiston-Woodville, NC. These peanuts were planted May 4 and correspond to the pod mesocarp color distribution on September 15 at this location.





Heat unit accumulation for various intervals reflecting emergence dates and rainfall for May, June, July, August, and through September 21 in the Virginia-Carolina Region. Source: NC Climate Office (<https://climate.ncsu.edu/cronos.>)

Dates	Wakefield, VA	Lewiston, NC	Rocky Mt, NC	Clinton, NC	Whiteville, NC	Florence, SC	Orangeburg, SC
Heat Units (DD_{56 F})							
May 1-September 21	2784	2715	2764	2912	2960	2761	2976
May 15-September 21	2695	2655	2722	2835	2877	2640	3034
June 1-September 21	2475	2425	2462	2567	2589	2313	2708
June 15-September 21	2203	2158	2188	2280	2300	1988	2402
Rainfall (inches)							
May	2.5	2.7	4.7	12.2	10.0	10.7	3.7
June	5.4	4.3	8.7	4.7	9.1	5.8	3.7
July	4.8	3.0	3.4	5.0	3.8	5.7	3.2
August	8.5	10.2	11.9	8.2	7.1	5.4	4.2
September 1-21	11.6	3.7	7.6	2.7	3.5	3.6	3.0
Total	32.8	23.9	36.3	32.8	33.5	31.2	17.8