

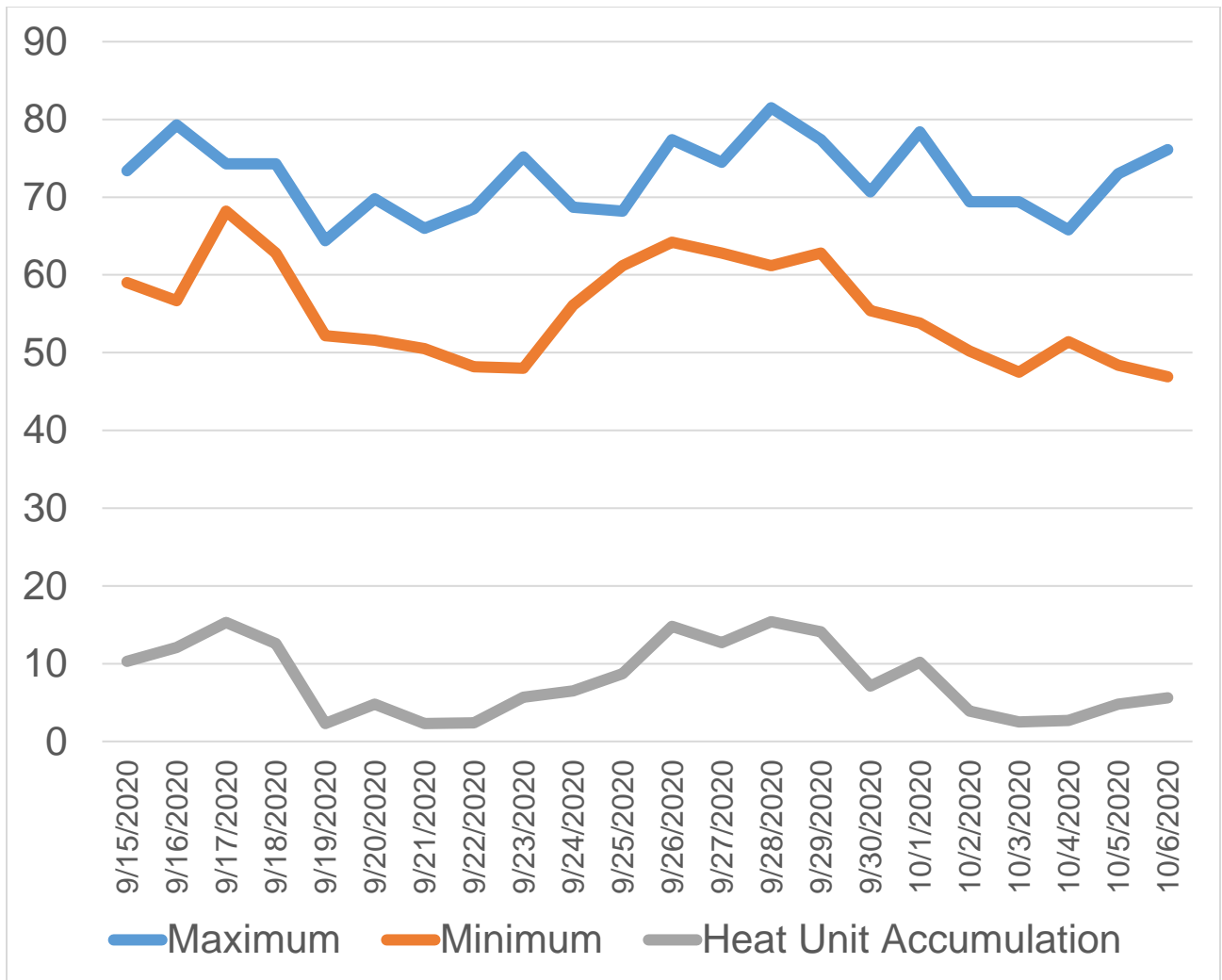
Heat unit accumulation needed for pod maturation across the Virginia-Carolina Region has been relatively modest for the past two weeks, especially in the upper portion of the region. Changes in pod maturation for the Virginia market type variety Bailey are presented from samples collected at Lewiston-Woodville and Whiteville. Data for maximum and minimum daily temperatures and heat unit accumulation (DD₅₆) from mid-September through October 6 for these locations are also provided. Of particular importance to note are the days where the low temperature was less than 50 F. When this occurs for two mornings in a row, progression of pod maturity is reduced significantly. In many peanut fields across the region, pods are just now reaching optimum maturity. For some fields there may not be enough days with adequate heat unit accumulation to bring the crop to optimum maturity. Some projections for the weekend of October 16 are high temperatures in the 60 F range with low temperatures in the mid 40 F range for several days. In practical terms, increases in pod maturity in the upper portion of the Virginia-Carolina region will need to occur over the next week to approach optimum maturity. It is unlikely significant progress in maturity will occur after October 16 unless weather patterns shift. There is concern that peanuts planted in June as well as peanuts planted in May that did not set a pegs until early August may not be mature when dug. This scenario could be the case for 20% of the crop in the Virginia-Carolina region.

Temperatures have cooled to the point where pathogens causing leaf spot and stem rot are not active. In fields where some leaf spot has been observed, the rate of increasing severity and associated leaf shed have decreased dramatically. Sclerotinia blight has increased in some fields but not dramatically. Tomato spotted wilt is present in some fields. However, as a general rule peanuts are in good shape across the region with respect to disease.

Approximately 30% of the crop in the Virginia-Carolina region has been dug and vines inverted as of October 7. Less than 10% of peanuts have been threshed. However, weather conditions are projected to be good for the next 3-5 days which will result in an additional 20% of the acreage dug before the remnants of Hurricane Delta affect the region. This is in stark contrast to the pace at which peanuts were dug and harvested in 2019. By this time in 2019, harvest of the peanut crop was well on its way to completion. Drought in some areas of the region and cooler temperatures in September and October have contributed to delays in digging and harvesting. Delays have been associated more with the slow pace of reaching optimum maturity than adverse weather caused by tropical events.

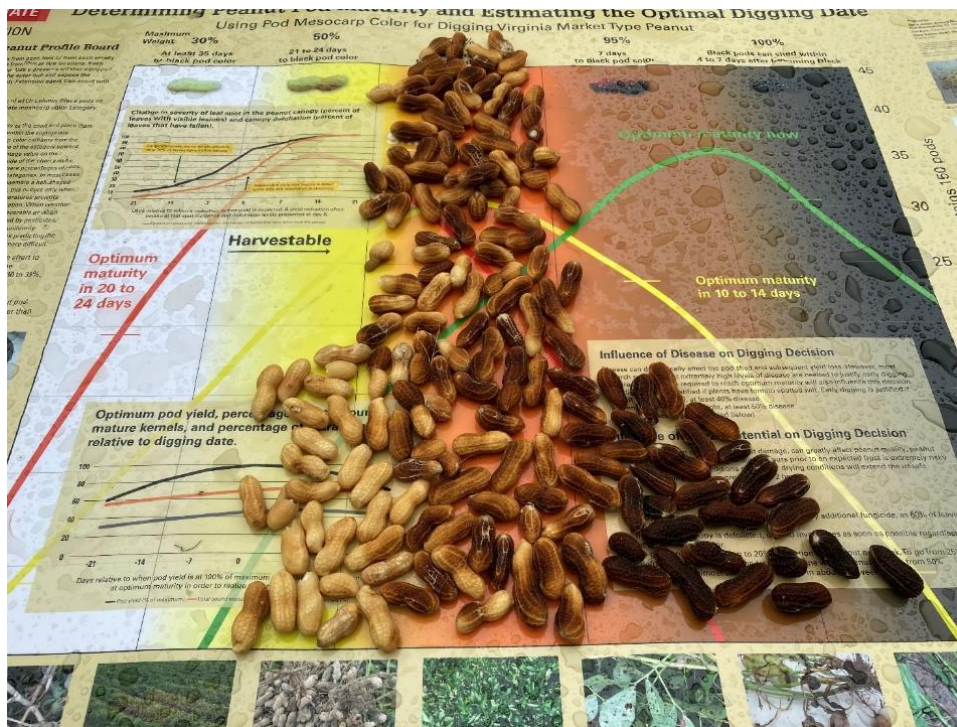
Yield potential in the region remains at 3,800 pounds/acre of farmer stock peanuts (4,260 kg/ha).

Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures (F) and Heat Unit Accumulation (DD₅₆) from September 15 through October 6 at Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.



Changes in pod maturity in two fields near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.

September 17, Field 1



September 24, Field 1



Using Pod Mesocarp Color for Estimating Virginia Market Type Peanut Maturity Date

30% 50% 75% 95% 100%

or 36 days post color 21 to 24 days to black pod color 14 to 17 days to black pod color to black 100% Black pods can stand without 7 days after becoming black

Harvestable SMK maturity now maturity 4 days

Digging Decision

subsequent yield loss. However, most growers are needed to begin early digging. Early digging will also influence this decision. Early digging is practiced in the Southeast.

on Digging Decision

can greatly affect peanut quality, peanut yield and an expected from is extremely risky. Early digging will extend the unsaleable period.

Additional fungicide, as 60% of leaves are damaged, should be applied as soon as possible regardless of the weather.

week to go from 25% to 50% can go from 50% to 100%

seed oil contains 100% oil

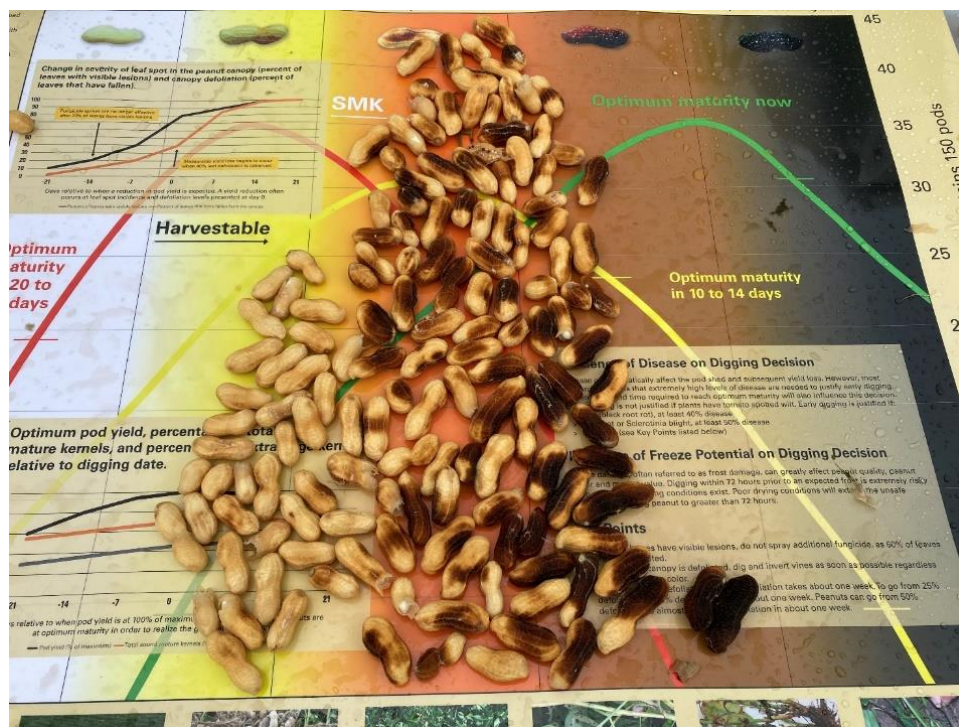
percentage of total sound percentage of extra large kernels

Extra large kernels (%)

September 17, Field 2



September 24, Field 2



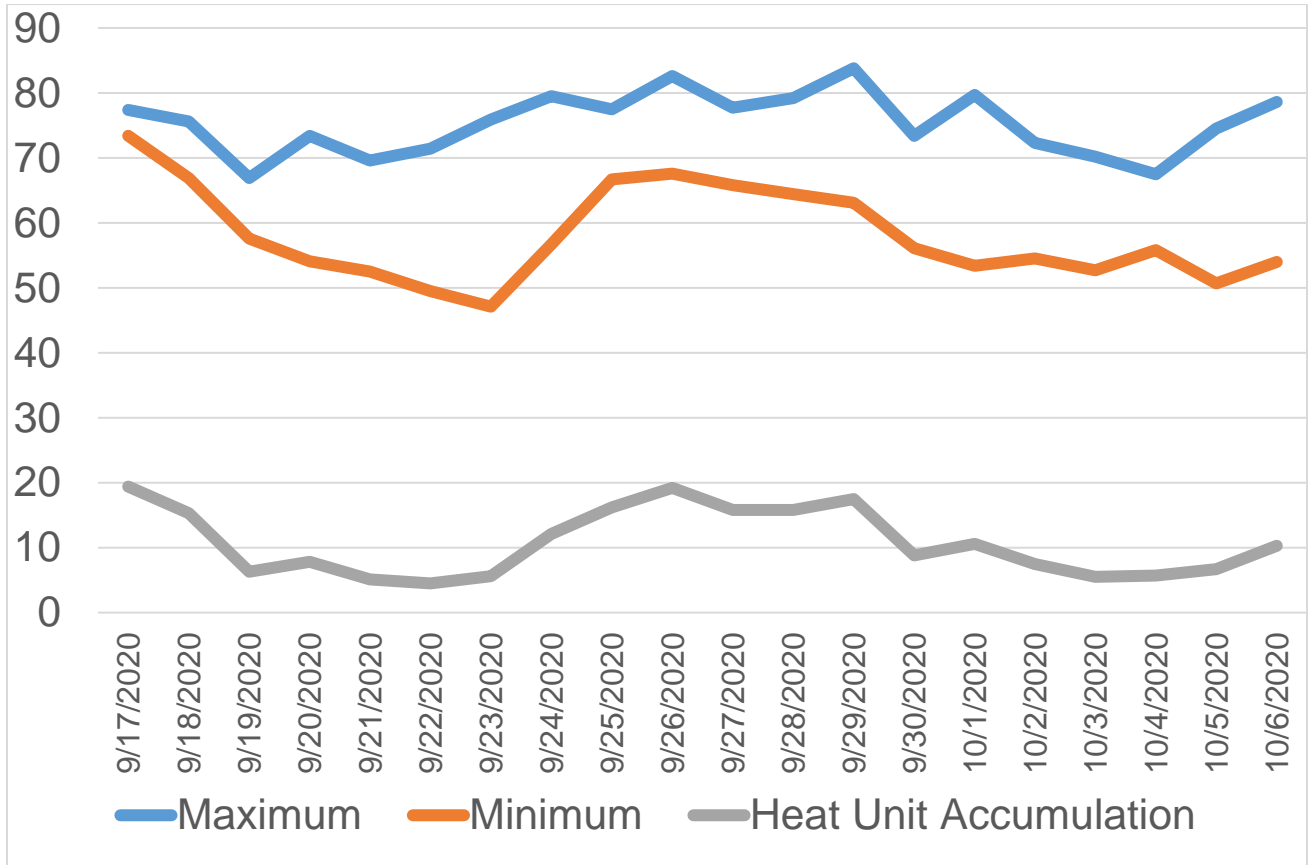
September 28, Field 2



October 7, Field 2



Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures (F) and Heat Unit Accumulation (DD₅₆) from September 17 through October 6 at Whiteville, North Carolina.

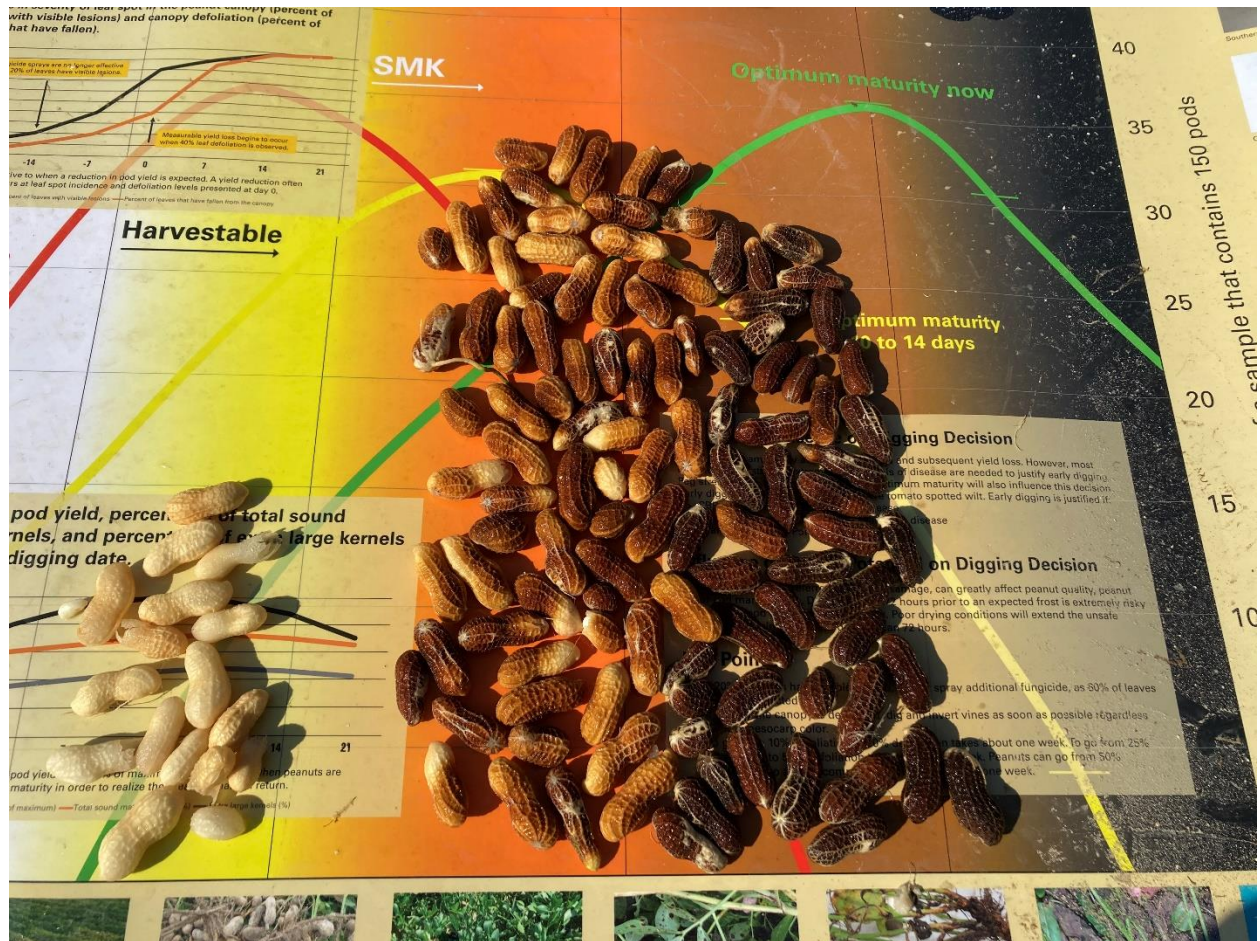


Pod maturity from a field near Whiteville, North Carolina on October 6.

Planted June 3



Planted May 16



Leaf spot disease in the peanut canopy near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.

