

The peanut crop in the Virginia-Carolina region has been dug and vines inverted. Peanuts in Virginia and South Carolina are 98% harvested with 90% harvested in North Carolina. For the region, 95% of the peanut crop has been harvested. Rainfall and temperatures for the weekend of November 19-23 are expected to be adequate for the region to enable harvest to be completed by November 25. Yield is expected to be about 15% lower in 2020 compared with record yields in 2019.

Market grades of shelled peanuts are better than initially expected based on weather conditions and challenges with peanuts reaching optimum maturity in many fields, especially in the middle and upper portion of the Virginia-Carolina Region. Pod mesocarp color, the most accurate indicator of pod and kernel maturity, was often in the brown category with limited movement into the black category in late September and through October. Peanut pods in the brown category often weigh about 5% less than peanuts pods in the black category and likely had minimal shrinkage after drying. Pod mesocarp color for many fields had a high percentage of pods in the brown category. Movement from yellow or orange/rust colors into the more advanced color categories was noted but pod mesocarp color in the black category proved elusive in many instances. This made a significant contribution to market grades even though many fields had only a few pods in the black category. Although market grades were relatively good considering the growing season, yields were likely lower in part because of lower percentages of pods with a black mesocarp color. As the fall progressed quality of in-shells, based on pod brightness and physical damage, decreased substantially. It is suspected that in-shell quality of the final 10% of harvest in North Carolina will be low, and market grades for these peanuts also might be lower than desired. Damaged kernels in both Seg 2 and Seg 3 categories has been relatively low this year, especially given the challenges with rainfall and projected frost in the upper portions of the Virginia-Carolina Region during October and November.

Yield potential in the region has been decreased to 3,700 pounds/acre of farmer stock peanuts (4,140 kg/ha), primarily due to the final 10% being harvested at this point in the season.

Peanut field near Oak City, North Carolina in early November.



Pod maturity sample from mid-October showing a high percentage of pods in the orange/rust and brown categories of pod mesocarp color.





Expression of fusarium in peanut harvested late in the fall.

