

Approximately 90% of the crop in the Virginia-Carolina region has been dug and vines inverted as of November 4 with 65% threshed. Weather conditions have been favorable for field operations for only a portion of the past two weeks. The potential for freeze damage forced many growers to cease digging peanuts on October 28 until November 3. Rainfall over the weekend of November 1 caused delays in resuming field operations including both digging and threshing. However, cooler temperatures, lower relative humidity, and clear days since November 1 have allowed fields to dry but delays are still expected.

Yield and market grades continue to be variable across the region. Some peanuts were vulnerable to freeze damage during the first few days of November. The extent of damage will not be known for several days because peanut fields are currently wet in some areas of the region and this has delayed harvest until later in the week of November 2.

The delay in crop development in 2020 compared with 2019 is associated in large part to cooler temperatures during the growing season, especially in September and October but also in May. Average heat unit accumulation from mid-May through November 1 in 2018, 2019, and 2020 at Lewiston-Woodville in the upper V-C region as well as the ten-year average are presented in the figure. Temperatures below 50 F for several days in a row were noted in late September 2020 and into October. Temperatures remained relatively mild through mid-October in 2019. Yield potential in the region remains at 3,800 pounds/acre of farmer stock peanuts (4,260 kg/ha).

Peanut field near Edenton, North Carolina with digging partially complete. The farmer in this operation decided to cease digging on November 29 to allow peanuts to dry prior to the possibility of frost early during the week of November 2.





Peanut fields near Rocky Mount, North Carolina that were recently harvest.





Soil in the root system of peanuts dug in late October.





Peanut field near Hertford, North Carolina that was dug several weeks earlier but the field has been too wet for threshing.

