

The peanut crop in the Virginia-Carolina region continues to move forward in a positive direction. A dry May was followed by adequate rainfall in most areas of the region during June and July (see table). As with all years, some pockets of the region had excessive rain in June that caused ponding in areas of fields while other areas missed rains. However, the majority of peanuts in the region are poised to yield and grade well as long as growing conditions in August and September are good and harvest goes well in September and October.

Growers in the upper Virginia-Carolina region are making their third fungicide application while growers in the lower portion of the region are on their fourth spray in many fields. Some weed escapes are beginning to appear and growers are applying herbicides that are selective for grasses (clethodim or sethoxydim) or 2,4-DB to suppress broadleaf weeds. Caterpillar and worms are beginning to become established in some fields across the region and growers are making applications of insecticide to control these pests. Cooler temperatures have increased the possibility of Sclerotinia blight incidence in the upper Virginia-Carolina region. Rainfall and cloudy days in June and July generally decreased the likelihood of spider mite and lesser cornstalk borer outbreaks across the region.

Virginia market types generally require 2500 heat units (DD₅₆) to reach optimum pod maturity. Runner market types can in some instances take a longer period of time to reach optimum maturity compared with Virginia market types. A summary of heat unit accumulation from May 1 through July is provided in the table. In practice, heat unit accumulation calculations begin when peanuts emerge. In the next report calculations will be expanded to cover peanut emergence on May 1, 15 and 30 and June 14 at these locations. The calculations in this report indicate the maximum number of heat units thus far for the 2021 peanut crop in this region.

Estimated yield potential continues to be 4,480 kg/ha (4,000 lbs/acre.) Estimates of market type varieties grown in the region remains the same. Estimated land area planted to peanuts in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia is 42,500 ha (105,000 acres), 34,400 ha (85,000 acres), and 11,300 ha (28,000 acres), respectively.

Rainfall and Heat Unit Accumulation (HUA) at Waverly (Virginia), Lewiston-Woodville and Wallace (North Carolina), and Orangeburg (South Carolina) in 2021.								
	Waverly, VA		Lewiston-Woodville, NC		Wallace, NC		Orangeburg, SC	
Period	HUA	Rainfall	HUA	Rainfall	HUA	Rainfall	HUA	Rainfall
	DD ₅₆	inches	DD ₅₆	inches	DD ₅₆	inches	DD ₅₆	inches
May	302	1.9	336	2.2	431	2.0	460	1.4
June	589	4.2	577	12.3	621	6.6	677	6.1
July	723	9.7	703	5.4	714	9.4	749	7.6
Total	1615	15.8	1616	19.9	1767	18.0	1886	15.1

Foliar-feeding insect in the peanut canopy.



Fungicide deposition on a peanut leaf immediately after application.



Texas panicum escape in a peanut field near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.



Pitted morningglory escape in a field near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.



Peanut field near Rocky Hock, North Carolina on July 30.



Peanut field near Edenton, North Carolina on July 30.



Peanut field near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina on August 2.



Peanut pod develop in a field near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina on August 2 when planted in early May.

