

Growers in the Virginia-Carolina region have started the harvest process. Approximately 15% of peanut fields across the region have been dug with less than 5% threshed. Leaf spot and southern stem rot incidence continue to be an issue in some fields but in most cases disease in fields is not yield limiting. Sclerotinia blight is the primary disease that could increase in upper portion of the region as temperatures decrease. The vast majority of farmers have stopped making fungicide applications.

Adequate heat unit accumulation (2500 GDD₅₆) for Virginia market type cultivars has been reached for peanuts emerging during most May in North Carolina and Virginia and for peanuts emerging in May and early June in South Carolina. However, rainfall patterns and plant stress can cause peanuts to reach optimum maturity at some point past 2500 GDD₅₆. Examples of pod maturity from several locations across the region are provided. As expected, planting date, soil characteristics (often associated with water-holding capacity), and weather are the most influential factors affecting pod maturity. Differences in maturity among the two most popular Virginia market types (Bailey II and Sullivan) and Emery are relatively minor and can shift back and forth depending on other factors. Runner market type cultivars often mature one to two weeks later than Virginia market types.

Some areas of the Virginia-Carolina region continue to be dry. Note that rainfall in southeastern North Carolina (Wallace, NC) has been less than one inch since August 20. The combination of late plantings (10%) or slow emergence due to dry weather in May have created vulnerability in reaching optimum maturity for some peanuts given the dry weather pattern in late August and September. There is concern that cool night temperatures in the coming weeks could prevent some peanuts from reaching optimum maturity. When daily low temperatures are less than 50 F for two nights in a row maturation often stops and peanuts seldom continue maturing unless a prolonged warming trend is experienced. Projected low temperatures for Lewiston-Woodville for the coming week (beginning September 23) are in the low 50 F range.

Estimated yield potential has been lowered to 4,450 kg/ha (3,970 lbs/acre.) This estimate is substantially lower than current NASS estimates for the region (NASS estimates are by state.) However, prolonged dry weather in some areas of the region is worrisome, especially for later-emerging peanuts. In addition to limited soil moisture for pod fill, some fields need moisture to prevent pod shed during the digging and vine inversion process. 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.

Heat Unit Accumulation (HUA) and recorded rainfall at Wakefield (Virginia), Lewiston-Woodville and Wallace (North Carolina), and Orangeburg (South Carolina) in 2021.								
	Wakefield, VA		Lewiston-Woodville, NC		Wallace, NC		Orangeburg, SC	
Period or Month	HUA	Rainfall	HUA	Rainfall	HUA	Rainfall	HUA	Rainfall
	DD ₅₆	inches	DD ₅₆	inches	DD ₅₆	inches	DD ₅₆	Inches
May 1 through September 19	2737	22.55	2689	29.65	2867	24.25	3052	24.32
May 16 through September 19	2641	21.82	2581	28.52	2706	23.25	2877	22.89
June 1 through September 19	2435	20.69	2353	27.46	2437	22.21	2592	22.89
June 16 through September 19	2140	17.60	2066	19.59	2122	17.25	2251	17.74
May	302	1.85	336	2.19	430	2.04	460	1.43
June	589	4.16	576	12.31	621	6.64	677	6.12
July	744	11.69	725	5.4	741	9.75	778	7.57
August	765	5.98	737	8.21	746	5.74	782	5.94
September 1 through 19	356	0.89	336	1.54	355	0.51	383	3.25
August 20 through September 19	-	1.37	-	3.26	-	0.52	-	5.10

Change in pod maturity from September 1 through 14 for peanuts planted in early May near Whiteville, NC.

September 1.



September 14



Relative maturity of Bailey II, Emery, and Sullivan near Whiteville, NC on September 14. Peanuts were planted May 8.

Bailey II

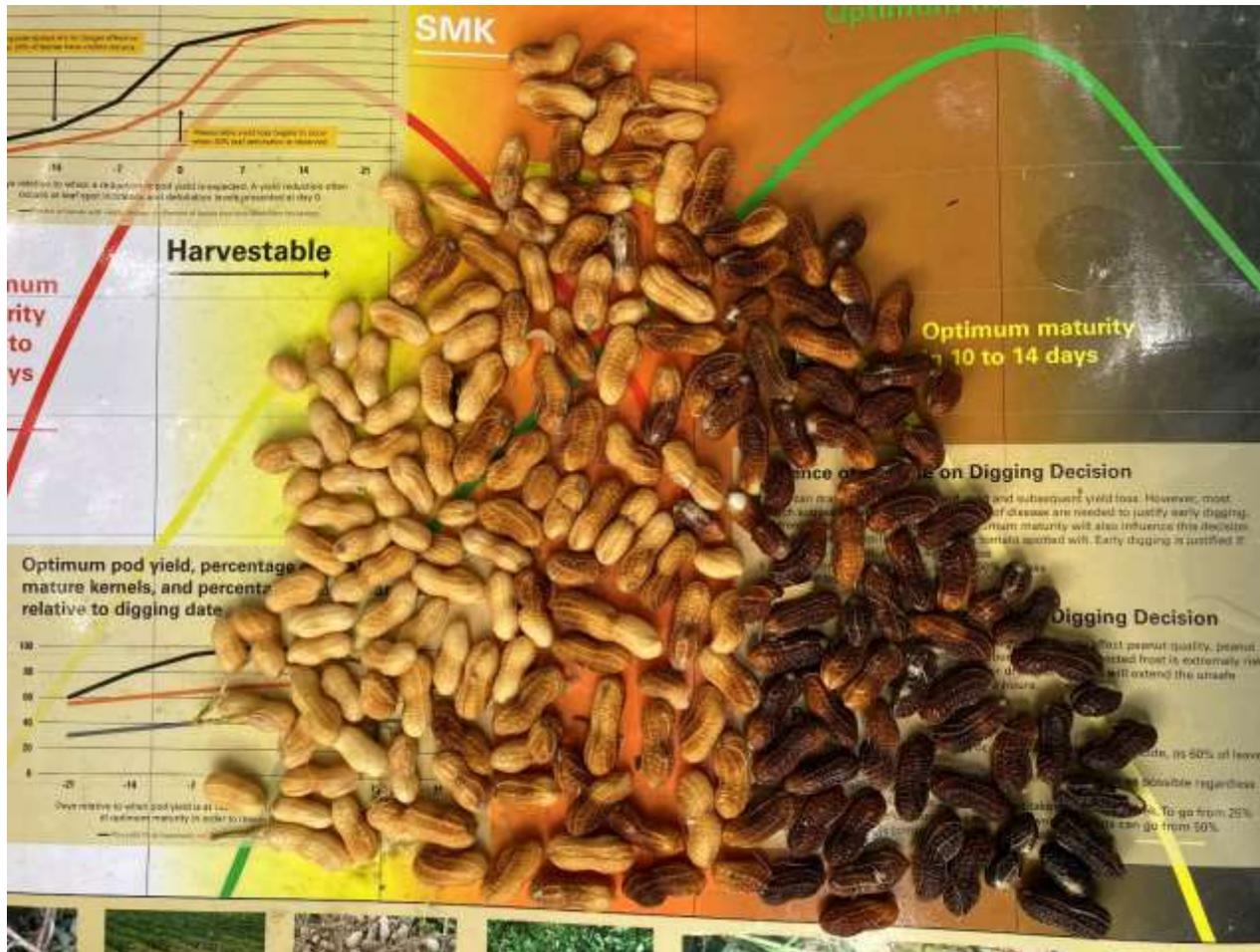


Emery



Pod maturity from two fields near Rocky Mount, NC planted in early May and sampled May 13.





Peanut pods one week after digging and vine inversion near Whiteville, NC. Image recorded September 20. Note insect damage on a small percentage of pods and soil around the tap root of plants.





Peanuts near Hamilton, NC experiencing drought stress on September 21.



Flagging of main stem due to disease near Whiteville, NC.



Stem rot disease near Lewiston-Woodville, NC on September 21.



Leaf spot disease on September 20 near Whiteville, NC.

