

Peanut growth and development varies considerably across the Virginia-Carolina region due in part to planting date and rainfall conditions in May and June. Peanuts near Whiteville, North Carolina in the southeastern corner of the state are about to lap in some fields (Images 1 and 2). These peanuts are in the R3 stage of growth (Images 3 and 4). Peanuts in other areas of the region lag behind peanuts at Whiteville. Late-planted peanuts or peanuts growing under dry conditions will require several more weeks to lap. Although rainfall has been variable (see table), there is a good chance of rain during the latter part of the week of July 4 moving into the weekend of July 8.

Growers in the lower section of the Virginia-Carolina region are on the second and third fungicide sprays for protection from leaf spot and stem rot diseases (Images 5 and 6). In the central and northern areas of the region, many growers are making their first fungicide spray during the week of July 4.

Most growers have applied gypsum (calcium sulfate) to peanuts. Boron and manganese are being applied with fungicide sprays. Some growers will apply prohexadione calcium to manage vine growth over the few weeks. This plant growth regulator is applied when 50% of vines from adjacent rows are touching.

Weed control is generally adequate across the region. However, additional herbicide sprays will be needed in fields planted late as well as those currently experiencing dry conditions. Rainfall at this point in the season will likely stimulate additional weed emergence.

Early season insects have been addressed well enough to protect yield in most cases. Some areas of the region are poised to have spider mite outbreaks, although rainfall and humidity over the coming few days could minimize potential for this pest.

With the exception of persistent dry weather in some areas, the peanut crop is in relatively good shape. With good patterns of rain for the balance of the season, the crop is poised to do well in many areas. However, yield potential in a significant number of fields is likely lower now because of delays in peanut growth and development due to dry conditions.

Estimates of plantings for North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia are 42,500 ha (105,000 acres), 10,526 ha (26,000 acres), and 31,174 ha (77,000 acres), respectively. Yield potential for the year is 4,480 kg per ha (4,000 pounds per acre) across the region.

<b>Rainfall accumulation in May, June and a portion of July during 2022</b>							
<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Rainfall</b>					
		<b>May</b>		<b>June</b>		<b>Through July 3</b>	
		<b>Inches</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>inches</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>inches</b>	<b>mm</b>
Wakefield	Virginia	3.36	85	2.59	66	0	0
Lewiston-Woodville	North Carolina	4.99	127	2.01	51	0.13	3
Rocky Mount	North Carolina	2.85	72	1.85	47	0	0
Clinton	North Carolina	4.12	105	3.01	77	0.23	6
Whiteville	North Carolina	1.58	40	6.94	176	0.91	23
Florence	South Carolina	2.14	54	2.56	65	1.32	34
Orangeburg	South Carolina	3.30	84	5.68	144	0	0

Images 1, 2 and 3. Peanut growth near Whiteville, North Carolina in the southeastern portion of the state.

Image 1 recorded June 20.



Image 2 recorded July 6



Images 3 and 4. Peg and pod development of peanut near Whiteville, NC on July 6. Peanut was planted during the first week of May.





Images 5. Fungicide deposition in the peanut canopy near Whiteville, NC on July 6.



Image 6. Fungicides being applied near Whiteville on July 6.

