

Peanuts in the majority of fields in the Virginia-Carolina have closed the canopy and are developing well. However, some areas of the region remain dry but the majority of fields have received adequate or abundant amounts of rainfall (see table). In the most cases, rainfall in July has been adequate for growth and development. However, in the lower Virginia-Carolina region some areas need additional rainfall to continue developing. In the northern areas of the region, some fields have received excessive amounts of rain and ponding is an issue in areas of fields. Limited sun and wet soils have caused some peanuts to be yellow or pale in color. The solution to this issue is dry weather and subsequent increased root growth and more active nodules for nitrogen fixation.

Peanut in lower areas of the region planted in early May have progressed well with targeted digging dates of early to mid-September. Actual digging will depend on numerous factors that affect pod maturation, disease, and ability to perform field operations in Augusts and September.

Although variation has been observed, worm and caterpillar numbers are relatively low for this time of year. However, growers will need to scout fields closely in the coming weeks to make sure populations are maintained below economic injury levels. Some fields will need to be treated to suppress populations. Growers in the lower Virginia-Carolina region are on their fourth and in some cases a fifth fungicide spray. In the central and northern sections of the region, growers are typically on their third and in some cases fourth sprays.

Tomato spotted wilt has been observed in many fields, especially in the lower sections of the regions. Levels that are more modest have been observed in the central and northern sections of the region. Leaf spot and southern stem rot (e.g., white mold) have not been observed at high levels, but these diseases become more apparent as we move to late August and into early September.

Rainfall across the region during the past two weeks has helped the crop approach its full yield potential. However, several key elements need to take place over the next three months to capture that potential.

Heat unit accumulation will be provided in more detail in the next issue. Current accumulation from May 1 through August 2 is 1,892 DD₅₆ at Lewiston-Woodville in northeastern North Carolina and 2,090 DD₅₆ near Whiteville, North Carolina in southeastern North Carolina. Virginia market types require approximately 2,500 DD₅₆ from emergence to optimum maturity. Weather patterns, in particular soil moisture can affect maturation irrespective of heat unit accumulation. Runner market types in the region require approximately 2,700 DD₅₆.

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.

Rainfall accumulation in May, June, and July during 2022							
City	State	Rainfall					
		May		June		July	
		Inches	mm	inches	mm	inches	mm
Wakefield	Virginia	3.36	85	2.59	66	7.14	181
Lewiston-Woodville	North Carolina	4.99	127	2.01	51	6.67	169
Rocky Mount	North Carolina	2.85	72	1.85	47	5.69	144
Clinton	North Carolina	4.12	105	3.01	77	4.28	109
Whiteville	North Carolina	1.58	40	6.94	176	5.56	141
Florence	South Carolina	2.14	54	2.56	65	5.11	130
Orangeburg	South Carolina	3.30	84	5.68	144	5.79	147

Peanut pods for the variety Bailey II on August 1 near Whiteville, North Carolina. Peanut was planted during the first week of May.



Peanut roots near Whiteville, North Carolina with numerous nodules involved in biological nitrogen fixation.



Wet soil and ponded water near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina on August 2. Some fields in the region have been wet for extended periods of time resulting in limited nodule activity and root growth and subsequent pale foliage.



Stunted plant near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina. This is most likely caused by tomato spotted wilt virus vectored by thrips early in the season.



Peanut canopy, pods and kernels from a field near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on August 1. Peanut was planted around May 10.







Peanut canopy and pods near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina on August 2.



