Peanuts across the Virginia-Carolina region continue to progress well. While temperatures have moderated over the past week, rainfall and overall temperatures during the growing season have promoted consistent crop development in most cases. Rainfall and heat unit accumulation data from seven locations across the region are presented in Tables 1 and 2. Rainfall during July and the first two weeks of August has been adequate for peanut growth and development at these locations. As always, there are dry pockets across the region that are missed when considering only seven locations, but these locations are generally a good representation of what has transpired in the region overall.

The impact of drier conditions in May and July will not be known until pod maturity is assessed using the hull scrape procedure (exposing pod mesocarp color) in early September. Virginia market types, the primary market type across the Virginia-Carolina region, require approximately 2600 heat units (degree-day units with a 56 F temperature floor, referred to as DD<sub>56</sub>) to reach optimum maturity. Runner market types, grown primarily in South Carolina, can require closer to 2800 DD<sub>56</sub> to reach optimum maturity. In many instances, peanuts will reach optimum maturity after these estimates because of stresses that may have occurred earlier in the growing season. For example, drought stress and injury caused by thrips feeding can cause delays in development early in the season that can translate into delays in pod maturity.

Generally, peanuts emerge in the region between May 10 and May 30. Based on Table 2, peanuts continue to be 200 to 800 DD<sub>56</sub> away from optimum maturity depending on location if they emerged around May 15. In the next issue, I will provide images of pod mesocarp color based on planting date from several locations.

Growers continue to be concerned about peanuts with a yellow to pale green color. Wet soils and cloudy weather have contributed to this as well as some issues with inoculant performance and low soil pH. In some fields, multiple issues associated with soil fertility and plant stress have been observed. Many growers have applied two applications of prohexadione calcium, a plant growth regulator that prevents excessive vine growth by limiting internode elongation. Many growers make a second application when new growth is observed after the first application.

Leaf spot and stem rot diseases are present in some fields. Tomato spotted wilt is also becoming more visible. With four to six weeks of the growing season remaining, it will be important for growers to maintain effective spray programs for leaf spot. Protection from this disease will be important as we experience tropical weather moving into September. Healthy peanuts plants without disease provide growers with the greatest flexibility in digging peanuts. When logistics or weather patterns delay digging past optimum pod maturity, pods are less likely to shed from plants with delays in digging if there is minimal disease.

Estimates of plantings for North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia are 44,530 ha (110,000 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, July and August during 2022											
		Rainfall									
		May		June		July		August 1-14			
City	State	Inches	mm	inches	mm	inches	mm	inches	mm		
Wakefield	Virginia	3.36	85	2.59	66	7.14	181	0.67	17.0		
Lewiston-Woodville	NC	4.99	127	2.01	51	6.67	169	3.27	83.1		
Rocky Mount	NC	2.85	72	1.85	47	5.69	144	1.38	35.1		
Clinton	NC	4.12	105	3.01	77	4.28	109	1.63	41.4		
Whiteville	NC	1.58	40	6.94	176	5.56	141	0.98	24.9		
Florence	SC	2.14	54	2.56	65	5.11	130	2.03	51.6		
Orangeburg	SC	3.30	84	5.68	144	5.79	147	2.20	55.9		

Heat unit accumulation DD <sub>56</sub> in May, June, July and August during 2022										
		Heat Unit Accumulation								
City	State	May 1-Aug 14	May 16-Aug 14	June 1-Aug 14	June 16-Aug 14					
Wakefield	Virginia	2020	1892	1629	1340					
Lewiston-Woodville	NC	2168	2002	1707	1384					
Rocky Mount	NC	2255	2077	1766	1432					
Clinton	NC	2318	2124	1793	1450					
Whiteville	NC	2364	2151	1805	1460					
Florence	SC	2642	2400	2029	1620					
Orangeburg	SC	2459	2230	1883	1518					



Leaf spot disease in the peanut canopy near Whiteville, North Carolina on August 17.

Symptoms of tomato spotted wilt in the top of the peanut canopy on August 16 near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina. Note the white droplets of a recently applied fungicide for protection from leaf spot.



Southern stem rot (white mold) in the peanut canopy on August 16 near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina associated with the "stringy" mycelia.



Peanut pod development on August 16 for the variety Bailey II planted in early May near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.



Peanut pod development on August 16 for the variety Bailey II planted in mid-May near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.



Peanut pod development on August 16 for the variety Bailey II planted in late-May near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.



Peanut pod development on August 16 for the variety Bailey II planted in mid-June near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.



Peanut pod development on August 16 for the variety Bailey II planted in late-June near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.

![](_page_10_Picture_1.jpeg)

Peanut canopy near Whiteville, North Carolina on August 17. Peanut was planted in early May.

![](_page_11_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_0.jpeg)

Peanut treated with prohexadione calcium (left side) versus non-treated peanut (right side) near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on August 15 in research plots. Image of new growth is presented in the second image. This plant growth regulator minimizes internode elongation (functions as an anti-gibberellin) and subsequently concentrates chlorophyll in tissue resulting in a deep green appearance of the canopy.

![](_page_14_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_0.jpeg)