

# Pod Maturity in 2022 and 2021

**Pod Maturity is 7-10 Days Earlier in 2022?**

**Set up maturity clinics earlier!**

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# Bailey II, Planted early May, Sampled August 23, 2022 Lewiston-Woodville, ~3 weeks

For each column, place pods on the mesocarp color category.

Pods on the chart and place them within the appropriate mesocarp color category from the line of the category upward. The percentage value on the right side of the chart can be compared to percentages of pods in the color categories. In most cases, the curve will resemble a bell-shaped curve. However, this occurs only when temperatures promote early maturation. When weather conditions are unfavorable or when plants are damaged by pesticides, the curve may not be uniform. This makes predicting the optimal digging date more difficult.

On the right side of the chart to determine maturity. When the percentage of pods are at least 30 to 35% in the black category, the peanut pod will grade better than the other categories.

Use the profile board will help you determine the best time to dig. The best time to dig is when the percentage of pods in the black category is at least 30 to 35%.

high 40° F

**Change in severity of leaf spot in the peanut canopy (percent of leaves with visible lesions) and canopy defoliation (percent of leaves that have fallen).**

100  
90  
80  
70  
60  
50  
40  
30  
20  
10  
0

Days relative to when a reduction in pod yield is observed (often occurs at leaf spot incidence and defoliation levels indicated).

— Percent of leaves with visible lesions  
— Percent of leaves that have fallen

Fungicide sprays are no longer effective after 20% of leaves have visible lesions.

Measurable yield loss begins to occur when 40% leaf defoliation is observed.

**SMK**

**Optimum maturity now**

**Optimum maturity in 20 to 24 days**

**Optimum maturity in 10 to 14 days**

**Influence of Disease on Digging Decision**

Disease can dramatically affect the pod shelled and subsequent yield loss. However, most research suggests that extremely high levels of disease are needed to justify early digging. Peg strength and time required to reach optimum maturity will also influence this decision. Early digging is not justified if plants have tomato spotted wilt. Early digging is justified if:

- > CRB (black root rot), at least 40% disease
- > Sclerotinia blight, at least 50% disease
- > Leaf spot (see Key Points listed below)

**Influence of Freeze Potential on Digging Decision**

Freeze damage, often referred to as frost damage, can greatly affect peanut quality, peanut flavor and market value. Digging within 72 hours prior to an expected frost is extremely risky even when good drying conditions exist. Poor drying conditions will extend the unsafe window for digging peanut to greater than 72 hours.

**Key Points**

- > If 20% of leaves have visible lesions, do not spray additional fungicide, as 60% of leaves are likely infected.
- > If 40% of the canopy is defoliated, dig and invert vines as soon as possible regardless of pod mesocarp color.
- > To go from 10% defoliation to 20% defoliation takes about one week. To go from 25% defoliation to 50% defoliation takes about one week. Peanuts can go from 50% defoliation to complete defoliation in about one week.

**Optimum pod maturity for digging**

100  
80  
60  
40  
20  
0

Percentage of pods in each mesocarp color category

21 14 7 0 7 14 21

Days relative to when a reduction in pod yield is observed (often occurs at leaf spot incidence and defoliation levels indicated).

— Percent of leaves with visible lesions  
— Percent of leaves that have fallen

21 14 7 0 7 14 21

Days relative to when a reduction in pod yield is observed (often occurs at leaf spot incidence and defoliation levels indicated).

— Percent of leaves with visible lesions  
— Percent of leaves that have fallen



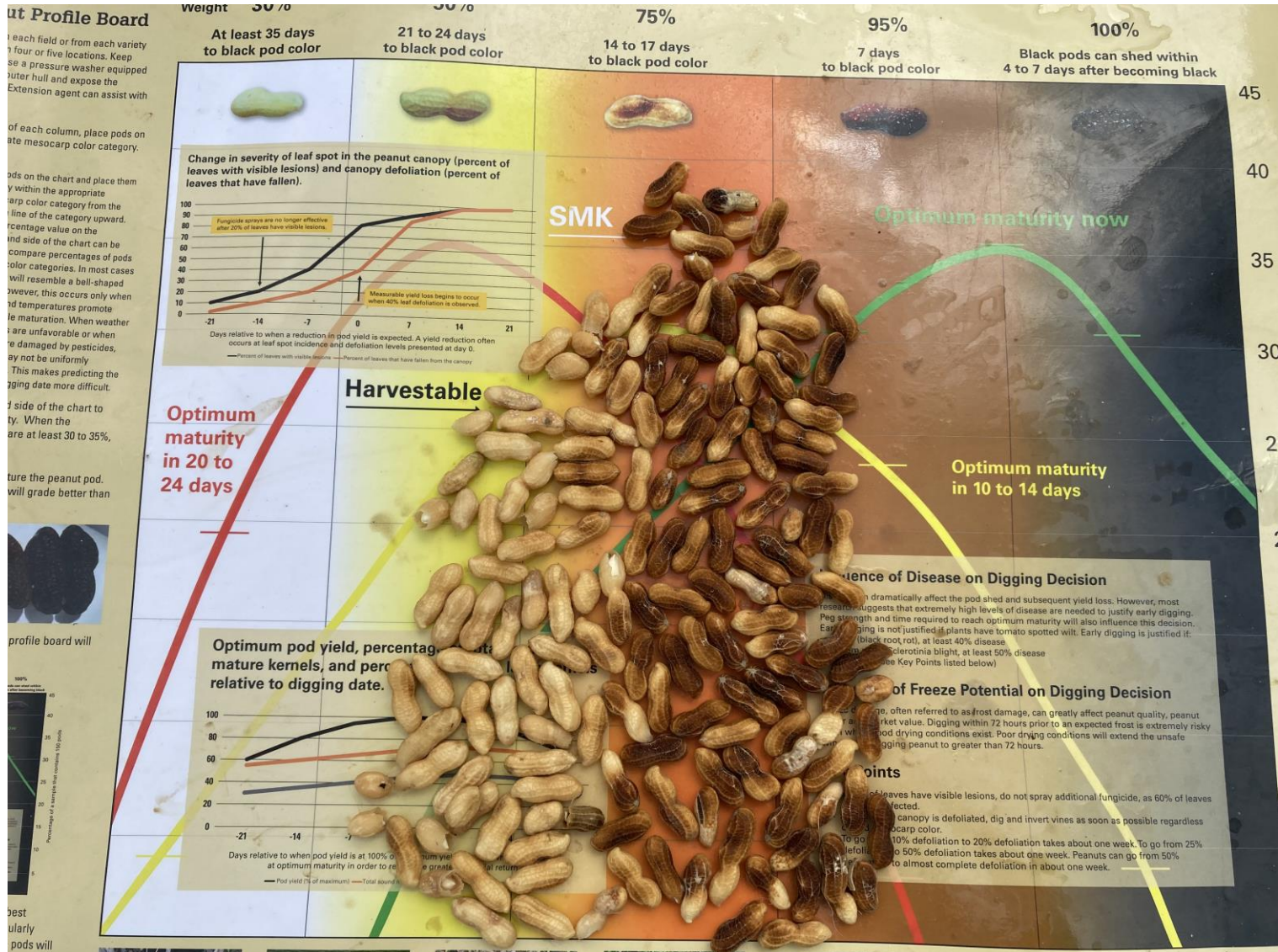
# 2021, Lewiston-Woodville, September 2



Peanuts planted in mid-May at Lewiston-Woodville, NC. Sample taken September 2.



# Bailey II, Planted early May, Sampled August 22, 2022 Whiteville, ~2 weeks





2021, Whiteville, September 1



Peanuts planted in early May near Whiteville, NC. Sample taken September 1.