

Growers are beginning to dig peanut pods and invert vines across the region. In South Carolina, approximately 10% have been dug while in North Carolina and Virginia less than 2% of peanut fields have been dug. However, many peanut fields will be ready to during the week of September 19 with many more fields at optimum maturity during the following week. The majority of peanuts in the upper V-C Region will not be ready until the last week of September. In South Carolina, a higher percentage of peanut fields are at optimum maturity now than in North Carolina or Virginia.

Some fields in Virginia are being dug now because of drought conditions and concern that peanut vines that have been under stress for the past month will not survive. Leaf spot disease has been controlled well across the region with a very limited number of fields with substantial levels of leaf spot incidence. Sclerotinia blight and southern stem rot (white mold) have been reported in some fields but at modest levels. Across the region there have been pockets where two-spotted spider mites have become established. In those areas growers are considering late-season miticide treatments for suppression. While the number of fields with this issue is relatively small, drought in these areas and impact from spider mites will likely contribute to a lower yield estimate. In a few fields lesser cornstalk borer adults and some damage has been observed. This insect pest generally occurs under dry conditions.

Some areas of the V-C region received modest levels of rain over the weekend of September 10. However, the amount and distribution were variable. Increased soil moisture will hasten pod maturity in some cases. Until these storms passed through the area, some growers with conservation or reduced tillage were concerned about digging peanuts in dry and hard soils. Recent rains will improve digging conditions for some of these growers but only for a limited amount of time. Peanuts planted in reduced tillage on flat or nearly flat ground are more prone to digging losses if soils are dry and become compacted and hard. South Carolina has more than 50% of production in some form of reduced tillage while North Carolina production stands at about 30% using this approach to tillage. Tillage systems in Virginia are similar to those in South Carolina.

In most locations across the region, a reasonable number of heat units for optimum maturity have either been observed or are on schedule for being achieved by the end of September for planting dates in May. However, temperatures will moderate over the next week and this could slow the pace of pod maturation in some areas of the region. Peanuts planted in June or those planted in May that experienced drought stress later in the season causing late pegging and pod set will need more time to reach optimum maturity. While cooler temperatures will also contribute to a reduction in spider mites and leaf spot disease, Sclerotinia blight incidence could increase.

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 has been decreased across the region from the previous report (4,480 kg per ha or 4,000 pounds per acre) to 4,370 kg per ha (3,900 pounds per acre). This

reduction is primarily due to dry weather early in the region in some areas but primarily due to a broad swath of fields experiencing drought over the past three weeks.

Rainfall accumulation in May, June, July and August and September 1 through 12 during 2022

		Rainfall									
		May		June		July		August		Sep 1-12	
City	State	Inches	mm	inches	mm	inches	Mm	inches	mm		
Wakefield	Virginia	3.36	85	2.59	66	7.14	181	0.87	22	0.38	10
Lewiston	NC	4.99	127	2.01	51	6.67	169	3.67	93	0.57	15
Rocky Mount	NC	2.85	72	1.85	47	5.69	144	3.65	92	1.18	30
Clinton	NC	4.12	105	3.01	77	4.28	109	3.45	88	0.60	15
Whiteville	NC	1.58	40	6.94	176	5.56	141	4.82	122	0.85	22
Florence	SC	2.14	54	2.56	65	5.11	130	3.80	97	2.14	54
Orangeburg	SC	3.30	84	5.68	144	5.79	147	6.53	166	0.76	19

Heat unit accumulation DD₅₆ in May, June, July, and August and September 1 through 12 during 2022

		Heat Unit Accumulation			
City	State	May 1-Sep 12	May 16-Sep 12	June 1-Sep 12	June 16-Sep 12
Wakefield	Virginia	2606	2477	2214	1925
Lewiston-Woodville	NC	2784	2618	2323	2000
Rocky Mount	NC	2862	2684	2373	2039
Clinton	NC	2940	2744	2413	2071
Whiteville	NC	3006	2792	2446	2101
Florence	SC	3313	3070	2699	2290
Orangeburg	SC	3127	2899	2551	2186

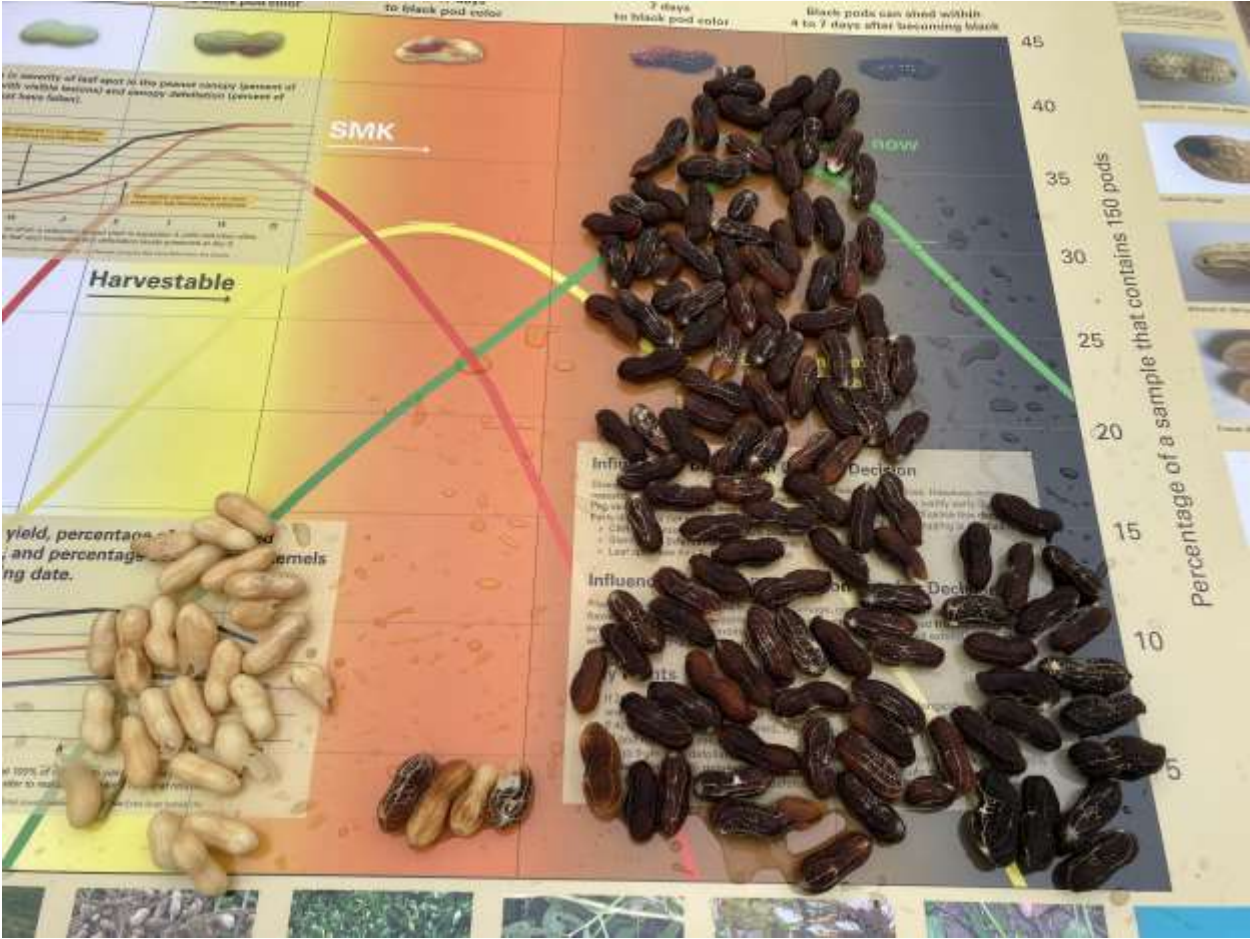
Peanut fields near Hamilton in northeastern North Carolina.





Pod maturity for peanuts planted in early May near Whiteville, North Carolina on September 13.

Bailey II



Emery



Sullivan



Walton



Pod maturity near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina on September 13 for peanuts planted in early May.

Bailey II



Sullivan



Walton



Symptoms of stem rot (white mold) in peanuts near Whiteville, North Carolina in September 9.



