Peanuts across the Virginia-Carolina region are moving closer to optimum maturity for digging pods and inverting vines. Pod maturity for the variety Bailey II from Lewiston-Woodville, Rocky Mount, and Whiteville in North Carolina is presented in Figures 1-3. Pod maturity at Whiteville for Emery, Sullivan and Walton is provided in Figure 4-6. Planting dates for these fields were during the first week of May with seedling emergence around May 15. Based the time from seedling emergence through August 29, heat unit accumulation is 2316, 2384, and 2477 DD₅₆ at these respective locations. When using pod development curves with pod mesocarp color along with an estimate of 25 DD₅₆ units per day, optimum maturity for peanuts grown at Lewiston-Woodville and Whiteville will occur on approximately September 15 and September 9, respectively. While heat unit accumulation suggests that peanut at Rocky Mount will be at optimum maturity on approximately September 13, pod mesocarp color suggests approximately 21 days will be needed to reach this goal. Generally, Virginia market types require a minimum of 2700 DD₅₆ to reach optimum maturity. However, dry conditions at Rocky Mount early and late in the growing cycle have contributed to delays in pod development even though heat unit accumulation has been adequate (Figure 7). Based on heat unit calculations and field sampling, optimum maturity will often occur at some point past 2700 DD₅₆ when peanuts are stressed.

While variation in rainfall across the region has been observed, rainfall in North Carolina and South Carolina at the locations presented here has been adequate to move the crop forward. Weather conditions in Virginia have been less favorable with only 22 mm (0.87 inches) recorded at Wakefield. However, dry pockets continue to exist in all three states. For example, spider mites have developed in the central coastal plain of North Carolina in some fields. Spider mites are indicative of hot and dry weather.

Diseases such as leaf spot (Figure 8), southern stem rot (white mold), and tomato spotted wilt continue to develop in some fields. Leaf spot epidemics are particularly challenging because leaves and pods can shed quickly and cause a reduction in yield, and fungicides are primarily protective and not curative. Pod damage from southern corn rootworm has been observed in a number of cases (Figure 9).

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 1-29			
City	State	Inches	Mm	inches	mm	inches	Mm	inches	mm		
Wakefield	Virginia	3.36	85	2.59	66	7.14	181	0.87	22		
Lewiston-Woodville	NC	4.99	127	2.01	51	6.67	169	3.67	93		
Rocky Mount	NC	2.85	72	1.85	47	5.69	144	3.65	92		
Clinton	NC	4.12	105	3.01	77	4.28	109	3.45	88		
Whiteville	NC	1.58	40	6.94	176	5.56	141	4.82	122		
Florence	SC	2.14	54	2.56	65	5.11	130	3.80	97		
Orangeburg	SC	3.30	84	5.68	144	5.79	147	6.53	166		

Heat unit accumulation DD ₅₆ 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 29					
Wakefield	Virginia	2320	2192	1929	1640					
Lewiston-Woodville	NC	2482	2316	2022	1698					
Rocky Mount	NC	2562	2384	2073	1739					
Clinton	NC	2623	2431	2100	1757					
Whiteville	NC	2690	2477	2130	1786					
Florence	SC	2979	2736	2365	1957					
Orangeburg	SC	2801	2573	2226	1860					



Figure 1. Bailey II planted May 4 near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina. The sample was prepared on August 31.



Figure 2. Bailey II planted May 6 near Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The sample was prepared on August 31.



Figure 3. Bailey II planted May 5 near Whiteville, North Carolina. The sample was prepared on August 31.



Figure 4. Emery planted May 5 near Whiteville, North Carolina. The sample was prepared on August 31.



Figure 5. Sullivan planted May 5 near Whiteville, North Carolina. The sample was prepared on August 31.

Figure 6. Walton planted May 5 near Whiteville, North Carolina. The sample was prepared on August 31.





Figure 7. Peanut experiencing dry soil conditions near Rocky Mount, North Carolina.



Figure 8. Defoliation of peanut near Whiteville, North Carolina on August 31.



Figure 9. Damage to pods caused by southern corn rootworm.