

Approximately 85% of the peanut crop is dug in the Virginia-Carolina region with 65% threshed. Rainfall since Hurricane Ian has been limited and conditions for digging and threshing across the region have been relatively good since the previous report. However, a frost occurred across much of the region during the week of October 18. This forced growers to stop digging on October 14 to allow pods and kernels to dry and shrink in order to avoid freeze damage. This type of damage can result in a Segregation (Seg) 2 market grade and much lower value of peanuts at the farm gate. Growers were able to start digging operations on October 21 once the risk for frost passed. This in part explains the slower pace in completing harvest across much of the region. Temperatures have warmed across the region and allowed growers to continue field operations without concern over freeze damage. However, during the week of October 24, vines have been slow to dry and fog has been present forcing threshing to be delayed until late morning or early afternoon.

Peanut yields have been somewhat erratic across the region. While market grades have been good in many cases, cooler temperatures in late September and frost in mid-October have prevented later-planted peanuts from reaching optimum maturity. This has negatively impacted yield and market grades.

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 is 4,370 kg per ha (3,900 pounds per acre) across the region.

Peanuts in a windrow near Rocky Mount on October 25. These peanuts were dug during the previous week.



Peanut foliage that was affected by prior weather conditions. This image was recorded in mid-October.

