

Peanut growers in the Virginia-Carolina region are in the process of preparing fields for planting. Cool weather in the region and significant rainfall in some areas of the region over the weekend of April 29 have contributed to the relatively slow start of the planting season. Soil moisture is good in most areas and with a warming trend projected for the week of May 8, peanut growers will move quickly to plant. Temperatures in the upper V-C region approached 90 F on May 8 and 9. Currently, 25% of land area is planted. With continued good weather, growers will make considerable progress in planting. While peanut yields can be good when planting occurs throughout the month of May, planting in mid-May is often the most desirable time to plant. Peanuts that were planted in late-April have emerged in some instances. Growers may need to apply insecticide to protect peanut from thrips feeding, especially if early season growth is relatively slow.

Major concerns over the next two weeks will be challenges with tillage and land preparation and planting if weather becomes less than ideal for field operations. Growers will need to address weed escapes and injury from thrips feeding once peanuts emerge. A small percentage of peanuts were planted in mid-April and late-April. Weather conditions have been less than ideal for optimum stand establishment, and growers may need to make hard decisions on replanting. However, peanut in the region can take up to 21 days from planting to emergence. Generally, early and mid-May plantings require 10 to 14 days from planting to complete stand establishment under normal conditions.

Planted area is projected to be 50,600 hectares (125,000 acres) in North Carolina, 34,400 hectares (85,000 acres) in South Carolina, and 12,100 hectares (30,000 acres) in Virginia. Less than 5% of plantings in North Carolina and Virginia are projected to be runner market types. Sixty-five percent of South Carolina plantings are projected to be runner market type varieties. This constitutes approximately 72,000 hectares (177,000 acre) or 75% of plantings in Virginia market type varieties across the region. Yield estimate for the region is 4,480 kg per hectare (4,000 pounds per acre).

Fields near Rocky Mount, North Carolina being prepared for planting. The first two fields were tilled recently with the third field having rows prepared prior to rains over the weekend of April 29.







Peanut seeds that are sprouting on May 8 after planting on May 4 in a field near Lewiston-Woodville in the northeastern part of North Carolina.

