

Planting in the Virginia-Carolina region is approximately 70% complete. Stand establishment has been relatively slow due to cooler temperatures. However, in most cases, stands are adequate (four or more plants per foot of row) for optimum yield. However, some replanting has occurred, especially in fields planted in mid to late April when previous rotation cycles were less than ideal for peanut health. Seed quality (germination and vigor) has been adequate in most cases this spring, although in some instances the combination marginal seed quality and cooler temperatures, which often cause delays in emergence, have resulted in fields with less than ideal peanut stands.

Rainfall has been adequate for planting and germination, and growers should be able to complete planting by June 1. Adequate rainfall has activated preemergence herbicides in many fields, with reports of early season weed control relatively good across the region. However, there are some areas where rainfall has been more sporadic. Growers will be looking closely at fields over the next two weeks to target emerged weeds with contact and residual herbicides.

Thrips injury has been observed in some fields, although in-furrow insecticides applied at planting are generally providing good protection from this pest. Growers often apply the insecticide acephate to provide additional thrips suppression through the month of May when needed.

Projected plantings continues 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. Yield estimate for the region is 4,480 kg per hectare (4,000 pounds per acre).

Peanut field planted on May 18 near Lewiston-Woodville in northeastern North Carolina.



Herbicides application immediately after planting peanuts near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.



Acephate, a systemic insecticide, is often applied to suppress thrips populations when in-furrow insecticides provide marginal control of this insect. These peanuts were treated with imidacloprid applied in the seed furrow. In recent years, this insecticide has performed inconsistently in North Carolina and peanuts often require a follow up application of acephate for adequate protection from thrips.





Emergence of peanuts near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on May 22. Peanuts were planted May 9 in this field.



Comparison of seedlings from seed that was considered good for planting compared with seed of poorer quality. These seedlings are from the same seed lot.







Peanut seedling injury from Valor, a popular herbicide often applied to peanuts. Peanuts often recover quickly from this injury and yield in most cases is not affected. Injury is typically noticed when rainfall events occur at the time of seedling emergence.







Palmer amaranth plant emerging with peanuts in a field near Rocky Mount in northeastern North Carolina.



