

Planting in the Virginia-Carolina region is approximately 95% complete. The vast majority of fields have adequate stands across the region. Some fields are in the process of being replanted, but those plantings should be complete by the end of the week of June 5-9. Relatively low temperatures and cloudy weather during the latter portion of May have caused peanut growth to be limited. Heat unit accumulation has been low across much of the region, especially in North Carolina and Virginia. Seed quality as a whole has been adequate. However, the combination of less than ideal environmental conditions for peanut emergence and growth and slightly lower seed quality in some cases has made getting stands in place a challenge. The week of June 5-9 has generally brought sunny weather and warmer temperatures.

Weed control has been relatively good across the region. Although sporadic in some areas, rainfall has activated soil-applied herbicides applied at planting. Growers are now applying their first sprays to emerged peanuts for weed control. Thrips injury has been observed across the region, especially in areas where imidacloprid was used at planting. This insecticide has been popular across North Carolina and Virginia, although resistance in thrips to this insecticide is well documented and potential to increase incidence of tomato spotted wilt. More recently, resistance in thrips to acephate, a widely used insecticide applied to peanut foliage to suppress thrips, has been confirmed in several fields in North Carolina. The importance of this insecticide cannot be overemphasized. Acephate (several formulated products) is applied routinely to well over half of the peanut in North Carolina in any given year, irrespective to in-furrow insecticide use. The distribution of resistance has not been determined in peanut across the region for 2023. Growers will likely need to apply insecticide for this pest for the next two weeks in some fields to suppress thrips. Warm temperatures and rapid growth of peanut will minimize the impact of this insect pest as we move through the month of June.

Growers across the region are beginning to apply gypsum (calcium sulfate) to ensure adequate pod and kernel development. Supplemental calcium is needed for all Virginia market type varieties and for jumbo runners grown. Growers are also beginning to consider their options for leaf spot and stem rot management, especially in the South Carolina. In North Carolina and Virginia, application of fungicides often begins in early July.

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).

Injury to peanut caused by feeding from tobacco thrips near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on May 30. The first image shows severe injury while peanuts in the second image have relatively minor injury from this insect pest. Peanut in the final image received an effective insecticide at planting.









Field near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina planted May 18 with image recorded June 5.





Peanuts planted May 8 near Whiteville, North Carolina with image recorded June 6.







Peanut near Hamilton, North Carolina planted in mid-May with image recorded May 30.







Injury from the herbicide Valor. Peanuts emerging when rainfall occurs are prone to injury from this herbicide.







Peanut field with a sub-optimum plant stand due to poor seed quality.

