

While rainfall across the region has been somewhat sporadic, most areas have received enough rain during the past two weeks to enable the peanut crop to progress both vegetatively and reproductively at an adequate pace. The pace of heat unit accumulation has increased over the past two weeks compared with rates earlier in the season. The tally from May 1 through June 14 (2023) at both Lewiston-Woodville (northeastern North Carolina) and Whiteville (southeastern North Carolina) were approximately 66% of accumulation during the same period in 2022. From May 1 through July 3, accumulation in 2023 at these respective locations was 70% and 76% of 2022 values. More recently, heat unit accumulation in 2023 for both locations from May 1 through July 17 was approximately 85% of accumulation during this period of time in 2022 (Table 1).

The majority of fields have few if any weeds present. However, there are some fields with escaped Palmer amaranth and common ragweed that are resistant to herbicides. Many growers will remove these by hand before they produce viable seed.

At this point in the season, growers will begin scouting for foliar-feeding insects (corn earworm, tobacco budworm, fall armyworm.) Although rainfall has occurred across much of the region, dry pockets remain and spider mites could build if dry conditions persist.

Growers are on their second fungicide spray for leaf spot and stem rot diseases in the mid and upper portion of the V-C region. Growers in South Carolina are on their third spray to protect peanuts from the pathogens that cause these two diseases. Tomato spotted wilt is becoming more apparent in some fields, especially in cases where plant stands were less than ideal.

The delay in growth and development and dry conditions have resulted in a slight decrease in predicted yield. The yield estimate for the region is 4,424 kg per hectare (3,950 pounds per acre). However, if rainfall across the region is adequate and progress on heat unit accumulation continues, the yield estimate may increase in the future.

**Table 1. Heat unit accumulation and rainfall from May 1 through July 17 at Lewiston-Woodville in northeastern North Carolina and Whiteville in southeastern North Carolina in 2022 and 2023.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Heat units (DD<sub>56</sub>)</b>	<b>Rainfall (inches)</b>	<b>Rainfall (mm)</b>
2022	Lewiston-Woodville	1,397	11.25	285.8
2023	Lewiston-Woodville	1,203	6.53	165.9
2022	Whiteville	1,545	13.21	335.5
2023	Whiteville	1,312	8.07	205.0

Peanuts near Scotland Neck, North Carolina on July 17.



Peanuts near Oak City, North Carolina on July 17.





Peanuts near Hamilton, North Carolina on July 17.



Peanuts near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on July 17.







Peanut foliage expressing injury from herbicide in the form of spots on leaves from a contact herbicide and strapping of leaves caused by the synthetic auxin 2,4-DB.





