

NC STATE

David Jordan <dljorda2@ncsu.edu>

Fwd: Reflections on the 2023 Pod Blasting Season

1 message

Mitch Smith <rmsmith4@ncsu.edu>
To: David Jordan <David_Jordan@ncsu.edu>

Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 3:00 PM

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From: **Mitch Smith** <rmsmith4@ncsu.edu>
Date: Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 3:00 PM
Subject: Reflections on the 2023 Pod Blasting Season
To: Mitch Smith <rmsmith4@ncsu.edu>



2023 Pod Blasting Results and Reflections

Our last peanut maturity workshop was held yesterday at *Charles Tucker and Son Peanut Company* in Belvoir with 41 samples being blasted. After a total of seven workshops, we were able to evaluate a total of 221 peanut samples which was a personal high number.

A close comparison of the samples which were blasted versus last year shows a totally different growing season in 2023. The biggest difference is that a majority of samples (55%) were estimated to reach optimum maturing in October of this year. The average date of these samples for the 2023 season is October 7. This date is estimated to be 2.5 weeks later than the average date estimated in 2022 (September 20). Refer to the images posted below in order to contrast the 2022 and 2023 peanut seasons for pod blasting.

Moving Into October

One positive finding as samples were blasted on October 3 was the increase in brown and black pods resulting from maturing peanut samples. Until this week, there were few samples that were discovered to be ready to be dug immediately. Finding more dark colored pods means that this peanut crop has continued to mature although it has been at a slow pace.

For the remainder of this week, temperatures will likely be normal with three days offering enough heat units to promote maturity. However, for October 8-14, temperatures will be trending below average. If this holds true, and nighttime temperatures reach the mid-to-high 40Fs for two nights in a row, then pod maturation generally comes to an end. Even though day temperatures may increase considerably, the plant seldom recovers from such cooler nighttime temperatures. Therefore, many remaining peanut fields will likely be dug next week even though optimum maturity has been projected to need more time.

A Risky Approach to Optimum Maturity

It is possible to manage immature fields in order to allow for greater maturity of fields by closely monitoring the weather forecast. Some growers did this 2 years ago when October was cool and they did experience a better quality crop. However, as we approach mid-October, the risk of freeze damage increases. With this approach, at least 3 days (72 hours), and in many cases, more than 3 days is needed between the

time of digging and frost to allow sufficient drying to prevent freeze damage. This approach is not for the faint of heart!

October Harvest Strategies

The Pitt County Extension Center will follow the weather predictions related to frost advisories and alert peanut growers on the factors affecting the October harvest. The frost advisory for the region started on Monday, October 2.

Listed below are 4 ways to obtain frost advisory information for Pitt County peanut farmers.

- 1) Call 1-800-795-0700 which is the frost advisory hotline.
- 2) Visit the [North Carolina State Climate Office website](#). This is the most preferred option for Pitt County peanut farmers. This web-based tool allows growers to click on a specific GPS coordinate for the field in question.
- 3) Visit the [cotton-peanut infonet \(Virginia Tech.\)](#).
- 4) Information on weather for the next few weeks can be found at the [Climate Prediction Center](#) available through the National Weather Service.

Note: This information is provided by the [NC State Peanut Portal](#).



Thank you Mr. Charles Register!

The Pitt County Extension Center wishes to thank Mr. Charles Register of *Nutrien Ag Solutions* for his invaluable assistance provided during our seven 2023 peanut maturity workshops. Charles provided valuable insight on the peanut season and was a major cog in providing this service to our peanut producers! Thanks for being on the Pitt County Peanut Team!!!!

Mitch Smith
Agricultural Extension Agent
Phone: 252-714-1445





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