

The peanut crop in the V-C region is approximately 30% planted. Dry conditions in April and early May allowed farmers to accomplish many field operations including land preparation. Rains in some areas of the region during the weekend of May 3 and scattered storms during the week of May 6 have been valuable in getting stands in some fields that were dry at planting. Peanut planted in late April are emerging slowly. Soil and air temperatures are high enough to promote emergence within a week to 10 days after planting. All indications are that seed lots had adequate germination and seedling vigor for adequate stand establishment.

Growers have several major concerns going into the 2024 cropping cycle. A primary concern is production costs relative to peanut price and unknowns about realizing yield potential. Early season weed control and suppression of thrips are critical elements of pest management in peanuts throughout the month of May in the Virginia-Carolina region. Rains during the week of May 6 will likely activate herbicides applied immediately after planting.

Yield potential for peanut in the region is currently set at 4,480 kg/ha (4,100 lbs/acre). The majority of growers in the region are planting peanuts with previous crop sequences that promote peanut health. Peanuts are also being grown on soils that are optimum for peanut growth developing and digging and vine inversion. Major factors that could negatively impact yield are weather patterns that cause stress, primarily drought, and wet conditions during harvest. The majority of plantings in North Carolina and Virginia are large-seeded Virginia market types (95%) that target the in-shell and gourmet peanut markets. In South Carolina, runner market types will be planted on approximately two-thirds of hectares with the balance in Virginia market types.

Field near Rocky Mount, North Carolina that has been bedded prior to planting in late April.



Peanut field near Rocky Mount, North Carolina that was planted the previous day.



Field near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina that was planted on May 8.



Peanut seed in the ground after being planted on May 8 near Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina.

