

The peanut crop in the Virginia-Carolina region is progressing relatively well. Rainfall and heat unit accumulation were good for crop growth and development in May and into early June. However, rainfall for the first ten days in June has been modest and there is no rain forecasted through the week beginning on June 17. Peanuts are resilient and can withstand dry soils and high temperatures relatively well. However, as flowering increases over the next few weeks, hot and dry conditions can adversely affect pollination. The peanut crop in 2024 has experienced more heat unit accumulation and rainfall thus far than in 2023.

Growers are continuing to manage weed escapes and in most cases have completed their thrips control programs. Calcium sulfate (gypsum) is now being applied in many fields to ensure adequate kernel and pod development.

Fungicide applications will begin over the next two weeks across the region. Leaf spot and stem rot diseases are the prime focus with bi-weekly sprays from late June through September. Symptoms of disease will not be apparent until much later in the season. The majority of fungicides are considered protectants with minimal curative activity. Growers are cautioned not to overspray fungicides in order to minimize potential for spider mite outbreaks. Hot and dry conditions are favorable for spider mite infestations, and fungicides, especially chlorothalonil, can reduce activity of a fungus that adversely affects spider mites. Many areas of the region are primed for spider mites given the hot and dry conditions that are anticipated. Historically, growers applied chlorpyrifos in many fields at this time of the year to prevent damage from southern corn rootworm and burrower bug. Currently, there are no chemical options to control these insect pests that can damage pods.

While the peanut crop across the region has started off well and has good stands, dry soil conditions coupled with high temperatures could negatively impact yield potential at some point. However, at the current time, peanuts will continue progressing relatively well and yield potential is maintained. Yield potential for peanut in the region is currently set at 4,480 kg/ha (4,100 lbs/acre).

Rainfall and heat unit accumulation from May 1-June 10 at selected locations in North Carolina in 2023 and 2024.

Location	2023		2024		
	Rainfall in mm (inches) from May 1-June 10	Heat units (DD ₅₆) from May 1-June 10	Rainfall in mm (inches) from May 1-June 10	Rainfall in mm (inches) from June 1-10	Heat units (DD ₅₆) from May 1-June 10
Lewiston-Woodville	49 (1.92)	402	120 (4.73)	23 (0.89)	635
Rocky Mount	86 (3.39)	425	155 (6.10)	27 (1.04)	662
Kinston	112 (4.40)	456	176 (6.94)	15 (0.59)	688
Clinton	54 (2.11)	476	116 (4.55)	14 (0.56)	691
Wallace	73 (2.88)	461	175 (6.88)	12 (0.48)	670
Whiteville	47 (1.86)	496	139 (5.48)	27 (1.08)	694

Peanuts in a field near Oak City in northeastern North Carolina on June 10.





Gypsum ready for application in a field near Stantonsburg in central North Carolina on June 12.



Peanut field near Stantonburg in central North Carolina on June 12. Note the symptoms on leaves from application of a contact herbicide. This foliar injury does not adversely affect peanut yield.





Escaped common lambsquarters plant in a field near Jamesville, North Carolina on June 12.



Peanut fields near Roper, North Carolina on June 12.





Peanut field near Windsor in northeastern North Carolina on June 12.



Palmer amaranth in a field near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on June 10.



Texas panicum and yellow nutsedge in a field near Lewiston-Woodville on June 10.

