

The peanut crop in the Virginia-Carolina region was under drought conditions for much of the past two weeks. Fortunately for some growers, rainfall occurred on June 30 and July 1. These rains were the result of a front that came through the region on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Although rains were not uniform across the region, many areas received much-needed moisture. The month of June was dry across North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Many growers have completed applications of calcium sulfate. Fungicide applications are underway across the region for protection from leaf spot and stem rot disease. Fields are in good shape in terms of weed control. Isolated outbreaks of lesser cornstalk borer have been reported in North Carolina and South Carolina. This insect pest can damage below-ground structures, especially pods. Hot and dry conditions are favorable for development of this pest. The same conditions are considered favorable for two-spotted spider mites and burrower bug. The latter is more problematic in reduced tillage systems but can be an issue in conventionally-tilled fields. Control options are available for spider mites but not burrower bug.

The peanut crops across the region was on hold for the past two weeks due to dry weather that persisted through much of June. Rainfall from June 30-July 1 has enabled the peanut crop to continue growing and developing pegs and pods. However, continued dry weather is in the forecast and temperatures are expected to increase during the latter part of the week of July 1, and some areas of the region did not receive rain in the June 30-July 1 window. Yield potential for peanut in the region has been decreased slightly due to dry conditions 4,340 kg/ha (4,050 lbs/acre).

Rainfall from June 1-July 1 at selected locations in North Carolina in 2024.

Location	Rainfall in mm (inches) from June 1-July 1	Rainfall in mm (inches) from June 30-July 1
Lewiston-Woodville	55 (2.18)	22 (0.85)
Rocky Mount	113 (4.44)	85 (3.33)
Kinston	70 (2.75)	11 (0.43)
Clinton	74 (2.90)	53 (2.10)
Wallace	50 (1.96)	33 (1.32)
Whiteville	53 (2.08)	0 (0)

Peanuts in a field near Oak City, North Carolina on June 15.





Peanut in a field near Rocky Mount, North Carolina on June 26.



Peanuts in a field near Clinton in central North Carolina on June 26.



Peanuts in a field near Lisbon, North Carolina in the southeastern part of the state on June 25. This location received rain the night before. Note the nodules on the root system. These are essential for biological nitrogen fixation.





Peanuts being irrigated near Lewiston-Woodville in northeastern North Carolina on June 24. The majority of peanuts in the region are grown under dryland conditions (> 80%).





Gypsum being applied near Lewiston-Woodville in northeastern North Carolina on July 3.



Peanut fields near Hamilton, North Carolina on July 3.







Peanut field and corn field near Robersonville, North Carolina on July 3. Corn (maize) has been hit particularly hard by the drought in June.



