

NC STATE

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Frost in Virginia later this week

1 message

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There is a chance of frost in Virginia on Thursday. Right now there are no risks in NC. I will send out a note on the portal, but my recommendation is that digging stops 96 hours before a frost event. I used to say 72 hours but to be safe, one should stop digging at least 96 hours before a frost or freeze. 2% freeze damage puts peanuts in the Seg 2 category which decreases price dramatically. Shellers often have lower amounts of freeze damage in contracts (with respect to a possible forfeiture of the contract.)

The frost prediction tool from the NC State Climate Office can really help in this decision. You can link the tool below and get down to the field level. Of course, predictions are more accurate the closer you get to the event. We need to be conservative because peanuts need time to dry (kernels) and kernels need to shrink. This creates an isolation layer between the hull and kernel that minimizes risk of freeze damage.

Temperatures this past week hit relatively low levels with respect to advances in maturity. At this point farmers should dig and not wait for continued maturation. But they will need to work around potential frost.

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