The peanut growing season in the Virginia-Carolina region during 2025 was characterized by extremes. Soil moisture and temperatures in late April and early May were good for land preparation and planting. While the pace of peanut emergence was slow during this window, growers were able to obtain adequate stands across most of the region. Rainfall was excessive in some areas of the region in late May and early June. This delayed field operations, resulting in approximately 15% of planting occurring through the middle of June. Optimum planting in the region is in May with yield potential decreasing considerably in the northern area of the region with June plantings.

Rainfall in June, while variable, was generally good for peanut growth and development. Inconsistent rain occurred in July, but in most cases, farmers received enough rain to move the peanut crop forward in terms of peg set and pod and kernel formation. Through July, there was a high probability that peanut yield and market quality would be exceptional across much of the region. Farmers were able to control weeds adequately and apply gypsum, micronutrients, and plant growth regulator (prohexadione calcium) in a timely manner. Severe injury from thrips had been avoided and farmers were making progress protecting peanuts from leaf spot disease and stem rot disease. While tomato spotted wilt was present, incidence and severity were not at unreasonable levels for this period in the cropping cycle.

Although rain was adequate in early August, by mid-August and through the month of September, rainfall was limited. Some farmers went without rain for over six weeks during this period. This had a major negative impact on peanut yield and created concerns related to market quality. While some SEG 2 (damaged kernels) and SEG 3 (aflatoxin contamination) peanuts were present in harvested peanuts, in many cases farmers were able to correct these issues through additional steps on the farm post-harvest. Even though yields were lower on average across the region, market grades (extra large kernels and sound mature kernels, for example for Virginia market types) were like previous years.

Dry soil in September and into October caused some digging losses, especially in reduced tillage systems. However, scattered rain helped minimize this impact in many fields. While dry conditions affected yield and in some cases the ability to dig pods and invert vines, these conditions allowed farmers to harvest and thresh the crop in a timely manner. Several tropical events did not move through portions of the region in September and October that could have caused significant yield loss through delays in digging and decay of inverted vines. The exception was the lower portion of the region where excessive rainfall occurred during harvest caused by remnants of a hurricane.

In several cases, there were concerns over freeze damage in late October and early November. For example, a significant freeze/frost occurred during the first week of November. However, most of the peanuts were harvested by this point in the season, although some farmers had to adjust digging dates relative to freeze/frost potential to prevent peanuts from grading SEG 2 (damaged kernels.)

The yield prediction for the region remains at 3,950 lbs/acre (4,420 kg/ha). Overall, the peanuts in the Virginia-Carolina region will yield less than in previous years but will provide quality needed for the market. The higher land area planted in 2025 will help ensure supply even

though yields were lower. There is concern at the farm level that increased planted acres (ha) in 2025 and reasonable yields will negatively impact contract prices for 2026 plantings. Based on USDA-NASS information, just under 136,000 acres (55,060 ha) of peanuts were planted in 2025 (96% Virginia market types and 2% each of runner and Valencia market types) in North Carolina. In South Carolina, just under 86,000 acres (34,800 ha) were planted with 26% Virginia market types and 74% runner market types. A total of just under 32,000 aces (12,550 ha) were planted in Virginia with 98% and 2% as Virginia and runner market types, respectively. A detailed map at the county level created by the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association can be found at: https://peanut.ces.ncsu.edu/2025/11/2025-peanut-acrreage-in-v-c-region-peanut-notes-no-284-2025/.

Table 1. Rainfall from Selected Locations in North Carolina and South Carolina in 2025 during May, June, July, August, September, October, and November 1-17.[a]

Location	May	June	July	August	September	October	November 1-17
	inches (mm)						
Lewiston-Woodville, NC	6.30 (160)	5.34 (136)	6.61 (168)	4.83 (123)	1.81 (46)	3.05 (78)	2.25 (57)
Rocky Mount, NC	6.07 (154)	7.11 (179)	4.31 (110)	3.64 (93)	0.79 (20)	3.07 (79)	1.45 (37)
Kinston, NC	11.12 (283)	4.61 (116)	6.32 (161)	4.74 (120)	0.61 (16)	3.18 (81)	0.72 (18)
Clinton, NC	7.11 (181)	5.25 (132)	4.25 (108)	6.55 (166)	1.11 (28)	2.79 (71)	0.66 (17)
Wallace, NC	8.00 (203)	5.20 (131)	6.53 (166)	9.03 (229)	3.30 (84)	1.52 (39)[b]	0.87 (22)
Darlington, SC	5.62 (143)	4.24 (108)	4.09 (104)	7.31 (186)	2.83 (72)	4.62 (117)	0
Edisto, SC	10.90 (277)	5.05 (128)	6.75 (172)	4.26 (108)	1.52 (39)	2.43 (62)	0
Orangeburg, SC	7.22 (183)	4.27 (108)	7.35 (187)	4.67 (118)	2.50 (64)	8.15 (207)	0.12 (3)

[a]North Carolina values calculated from data provided by the North Carolina State Climate Office. South Carolina values calculated using the Weather App from Clemson University (https://clemson-weather.app.clemson.edu/index.php).
[b]Weather data collected in October are incomplete at this location.

Field in northeastern North Carolina prepared for planting in late April.

Peanuts that emerged in mid-May in a field near Lewiston-Woodville, NC.

Peanut field near Rocky Mount in mid-May.

Peanut field near Tarboro in northeastern North Carolina in early June.

Peanut flower on a plant in late June in northeastern North Carolina.

Peanut pegs and pods on a plant in early August near Lewiston-Woodville, NC.

Peanuts in a field near Oak City, North Carolina in late July.

Peanut experiencing stress from limited soil water in late August near Jackson (first image) and Oak City (second image) in northeastern North Carolina.

Leaf spot disease in the canopy near Lewiston-Woodville, NC in early September.