

Summary of Farmer Practices in the Virginia-Carolina Region Related to Digging and Harvesting Peanut

A. BRADLEY*, D. L. JORDAN, B. B. SHEW, R. L. BRANDENBURG, G. ROBERSON, B. SANDLIN, B. BARROW, J. HURRY, B. MCLEAN, M. LEARY, M. SHAW, M. CARROLL, P. SMITH, R. THAGARD, A. WHITEHEAD, B. PARISH, J. HOLLAND, T. BRITTON, J. MORGAN, A. COCHRAN, C. ELLISON, M. HUFFMAN, M. SEITZ, D. LILLEY, L. GRIMES, M. MALLOY, D. KING, R. WOOD, A. WILLIAMS, and M. BENNETT, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Raleigh, NC 27695; D. J. ANCO, J. THOMAS, K. KIRK, C. DAVIS, J. CROFT, J. VARN, T. DeHOND, W. HARDEE, H. MIKELL, J. STOKES, D. DeWITT, M. BARNES, and J. BALLEW, South Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Clemson, SC, Edisto Research and Education Center, Clemson University, Blackville, SC 29817; and M. BALOTA, H. MEHL, S.V. TAYLOR, L. PREISSER, N. NORTON, M. PARRISH, S. REITER, G. SLADE, J. SPENCER, and M. WILLIAMS, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

A survey of over 300 growers in the Virginia-Carolina region was conducted at production meetings in winter 2018 to determine practices associated with digging peanut and harvesting. The time required to harvest was approximately 1.6 times longer than the time required to dig. The percentage of growers applying prohexadione calcium in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia was 56%, 13%, and 51%, respectively. The percentage of farmers using a guidance system to dig in these respective states was 38%, 79%, and 32%. Growers were asked to estimate the number of days a sample of pod-blasted peanut should be dug. Based on yield response in the study from which the image was recorded, optimum maturity was estimated to be 10 days after the image was recorded. Growers were told that soil conditions would be good for digging during the next 3 weeks, no tropical weather was in the forecast, little to no disease was present in the canopy, and no frost was expected over the following 3 weeks. These conditions would be ideal for digging and harvesting conditions. The range of estimates was between 0 days to wait to dig up to 21 days later. In North Carolina the average estimate was 10 days while in both South Carolina and Virginia was 8 days to digging. Very few growers reported that they needed to dig earlier than optimum maturity based on defoliation caused by leaf spot. Although not presented here, growers were asked to provide their acreage, an estimate of yield, and the equipment they use to dig and harvest peanut. Growers were also asked to rank the relative maturity of the cultivars Bailey, Sullivan, and Wynne.