

Modification of the Maturity Profile Board for Virginia Market Type Peanut

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Determining when to dig peanut and invert vines is one of the most important decisions a grower will make in their peanut production operation. Digging peanut one week prior to optimum pod and kernel maturity can prevent farmers from realizing substantial yield and economic returns. A peanut maturity profile board was developed for Virginia market type peanuts in 2005 based on original work reported by Williams and Drexler in 1982. Through use of a turbo nozzle and a standard pressure washer, peanut farmers and their advisors have the capacity to assess maturity on their own without input for Cooperative Extension agents. While many people outside of Cooperative Extension understand the relationship of pod mesocarp color and optimum digging dates, creating a profile board with key information was the goal to help individuals on their own make good decision about digging peanut. A series of red, yellow and green curves was present on the peanut profile board developed in 2005 with images of peanut pods representing examples of peanut with white, yellow, orange or rust, brown, and black pods exposed. In 2019 it became evident that the supply of peanut profile boards printed and laminated in 2005 had been exhausted. In spring 2020, the 2005 version of the peanut board was modified. In addition to the curves described above, the board provides images of biotic and abiotic stresses that would be observed while peanut samples are being collected for pod maturity determination. Information on the pace of development of severity of leaf spot disease and canopy defoliation are provided on the new profile board. The profile board will be available for use during harvest of the 2020 peanut crop.