

Genetic Gain Achieved Over 90 years of Breeding Runner Peanut Cultivars at the University of Georgia.

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The peanut breeding effort has been continuously carried out since 1931 in Georgia. We were interested to see what progress has been made over the course of the breeding effort, starting with the first runner cultivar, Southeastern Runner (SER) 56-15, released by B.B. Higgins in 1947. Essentially a land race cultivar, SER 56-15 was pure-lined from a farmer-saved seed cultigen popular in the early 1900s. We tested SER 56-15 along with 15 contemporary Georgia runner cultivars at Tifton, GA from 2019 to 2021 to evaluate pod yield, grade quality, and resistance to tomato spotted wilt virus. Pod yield has improved >3500 lbs/acre, representing a 210 lbs/acre increase per cultivar release, and dollar value increase of \$38/acre per cultivar released.