

Evaluating Peanut Varieties for Early Maturity in North Mississippi

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Northern and mid-Mississippi regions have shorter growing seasons, cooler nights, and lower thermal unit accumulation than Florida and southern Georgia. This environment results in slower crop development and delays in harvest maturity. Georgia-06G did not reach full harvest maturity in recent years, resulting in sub-optimal harvest yields and decreased grade potential. Delaying harvest to increase pod maturity increases the risk of unfavorable harvest conditions later in the year. Our team has evaluated advanced runner market type varieties for early maturity and agronomic suitability in north Mississippi. This research was completed in 2020 and 2021 and examined harvest mesocarp coloration, pod yield, and grade of 12 peanut cultivars, including Georgia-06G. This study shows that earlier maturing (7-14 days) runner market-type peanut cultivars can be developed for production in this region without significant reductions in pod yield potential.