

Determining Optimal Digging Time in North Mississippi Peanut Production Systems

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Success during peanut harvest can be one of the most important factors determining profitable peanut production. If peanut is harvested too early, reductions in yield and grade can occur from the crop not reaching its full potential. Late harvesting of peanut can also result in significant loss of over-mature pods, and delays in harvest from unfavorable weather conditions increase the risk of diminished crop quality. Additionally, little information exist on maturity progression and optimal harvest timing for the midsouthern U.S. region. Research was completed across six site-years in north Mississippi quantifying mesocarp color, pod yield, and grade progression of Georgia-06G across five digging times. Digging times were standardized across site years by digging at specific accumulated growing degree days (base 13.3° C). Across all six site-years pod yield reached its maximum close to 1875 °C days. This corresponded to 72% black, brown, orange pods. These results provide additional methods than can be utilized with the peanut profile board to determine optimal peanut digging time within the northern latitudes of Mississippi.