

## Peanut Maturity Clinics Scheduled

Peanut crop maturity is loaded with uncertainty. Planting date, cool, wet spring conditions, hot and dry in midseason and overall temperatures played a role in peanut development and maturity in 2020. Deciding when to dig is as much an art as it is a science. Although there are tools that aid in this decision process, each field and variety are different. Digging too soon or too late can yield losses of up to \$11 per acre per day.

Peanut maturity can be tracked with growing degree days. This calculation of average daily temperature (high minus low divided by 2) minus 56 gives the growing degree calculation. Begin this count on the day of emergence (about 5-7 days after planting). Varieties such as Bailey and Bailey 2 require 2590 growing degree days while Wynn requires 2700. Other varieties fall in between these two. As of September 1, 2355 degree days have been recorded at the Peanut Belt Research Station in Lewiston. Based on this and figuring an average additional 21 degree days per day through September, our May 1 planted peanuts approach maturity on September 20. Other estimated dates are below. Based on this information, the peanut crop this year will be a bit later than the last couple of years. Warm temperatures will be needed through October to mature our later planted acres.

<u>Planting Date</u>	<u>Estimated Maturity</u>
May 1	September 20
May 10	September 27
May 20	October 5
June 1	October 14

While this calculation gives an estimate of crop maturity, a closer estimate to individual field maturity can be gained by removing the outer layer of the pod. This is done with the assistance of a typical power washer using a turbo tip. Growers gather 2-3 samples (approximately 150 pods) from representative areas of the field, remove the pods from the vines and place in a screened cylinder to be "blasted" with the power washer. Once the outer layer of the hull is removed, the pods are sorted on maturity profile boards according to color and thus maturity. Pod colors range from yellow (immature) to orange to brown and finally black (mature). The goal is to harvest the field when the majority of the pods are in the brown to black category (generally about 65%). Remember the peanut displays an indeterminate growth habit and thus not all pods mature at the same time. The goal is to harvest when the most yield and grade can be gathered from each field.

To aid in determining maturity, N C Cooperative Extension, Bertie Center, will hold four (4) peanut maturity clinics this month. The dates and locations are listed below. Growers are reminded if they pull samples the evening before keep the pods submersed in water until the next morning. All growers are welcome.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
September 9	Powell & Stokes	Windsor 8:00 a.m.
September 11	Colerain Peanut & Supply	Colerain 8:30 a.m.
September 22	Powell & Stokes	Windsor 8:00 a.m.
September 24	Nutrien Ag Solutions	Trap 8:30 a.m.

