



Bertie County Ag News

NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Contact Us at 252-794-5317



2021 Peanut Crop

Prospects for our 2021 peanut crop are brighter than the last couple years with contract prices hovering around \$520. That's about a 15% increase over 2020. With that in mind, let's turn our attention to producing the best yielding and quality crop possible given the factors we can have some control over.

Focus on the fundamentals:

Fertility: Our peanut guide suggests a pH range of 5.8-6.2. If you are taking general soil samples, shoot for the higher side, a pH of 6.2 in your fields. This will help cover those spots in the field that generally test lower. Low pH levels can result in lower yield and quality if gypsum is over applied. Also, inoculants are generally less effective.

Rotation is essential: Peanuts respond to the beneficial aspects of different crops grown in the same field. Long rotations (3-4 years) are best with cotton or corn preceding the peanut crop especially if soybeans or sage are in the rotation. Sweet potatoes also are a good rotational crop for peanuts.

Varieties: Choose a variety that performs well on your farm. We have a number of good varieties to choose from. In addition, to good yield potential, they all have good disease packages. Below are the results from our county yield trial with David Leggett. These are dryland yields replicated and averaged over the past 4 years. This data is from a single digging date each year. There were no statistical differences in yields in 2020.

Peanut Variety Trial 2017-2020

	2020	2019	2018	2017	4 yr avg
Bailey	5440	5944	5344	5921	5662
Wynne	5181	5947	5020	5764	5478
Bailey 2	5283	6022			5653
Sullivan	5500	5647	5050	5822	5505
J20	5048				5048
Emery	5520	5230	5332	5992	5518

2020 Variety Results

Variety	Avg Yield	Value/Acre*
Bailey	5440	1277
Wynne	5181	1208
Bailey 2	5283	1244
Sullivan	5500	1287
J20	5048	1162
Emery	5520	1316

*calculated at \$450 per ton

Inoculant every field: Research shows (43 trials from 1999-2017) that even inoculating fields with a recent history of peanuts can give a 5 to 1 return, (\$40 return on \$8 investment). Try getting that with your local bank!

Plant on time: Research confirms that planting by mid-May (May 15-20) in NC provides the highest yields. However, this is can be difficult given time constraints and multiple cropping systems. Plan to get the crop in the ground on or before the middle of May. Later plantings often lag in maturity unless we have a late fall with warm temperatures similar to 2019. Critical to the success of early plantings are proper soil temperatures (65 degrees at midday at 4-inch depth) and favorable weather (no cold wet weather with in 72 hours of planting).

Treat for Thrips at planting: An in-furrow thrips treatment at planting will add up to 700 pounds per acre. Thrips can be devastating to young plants, attacking seedlings upon emergence. This year Dr. Rick Brandenburg, NCSU Peanut Entomologist, implemented a thrips control treatment for our CHROME Regional Ag Expo. Each basic treatment was compared to the untreated check. In addition, each treatment was sprayed 24 days after planting with 8 ounces of Orthene. Over several years, data has shown positive results from an over spray 24 DAP, however this year the data was not consistent.

Thrips Control PBRs 2020		
CHROME Regional Ag Expo		
Treatment	Rate per acre	Avg Yield
Untreated		4041 d*
Orthene 97	8 oz	4362 c
Thimet 20G	6 lb	4734 b
Thimet 20G +Orthene	6lb ; 8 oz	4717 b
Velum Total IFS	18 fl oz	4638 cb
Velum Total IFS + Orthene	18 fl oz; 8 oz	4734 b
Admire Pro IFS	10 fl oz	4672 cb
Admire Pro IFS + Orthene	10fl oz ; 8oz.	4754 b
AgLogic IF 15G	7 lb	5309 a
AgLogic 15G + Orthene	7 lb; 8oz	4771 b

*Yields followed by the same letter are not statistically different

Velum Total Nematode Control				
	2020			
	Yield/acre	ELK	TSMK	Value/tn*
Imidacloprid	3956 a	52 a	69 a	454 a
Velum Total	3928 a	50 b	67 b	440 a

Calculated at \$450/tn

Nematodes: Velum Total will now be available as Velum. The imidacloprid is being removed. Recent tests plots in Bertie County with Joey Baker suggests that there is no statistical difference in the yield on fields treated with Velum Total vs imidacloprid (our untreated check) where there is a strong crop rotation. These results are similar to our findings last year. Nematode samples were taken prior to planting and then again immediately before harvest. Although there was some decrease in populations, there was no effect on yield or value per ton. Based on this, growers should continue to use long rotations to deter nematode populations. Cutting out this nematicide treatment will save about \$23 per acre.

Start Clean Finish Clean: Weed control is a must. Numerous options and combinations are available. Here are some critical points. Know the weeds present. Use tillage or good burndown program to eliminate existing vegetation. Use a preemergence to control early season grasses and broadleaf weeds. Use the full recommended herbicide rate to control emerged weeds and grasses. Partial rates can lead to resistant populations. Use the high rate of Gramoxone (plus Basagran as a safener) to control first flush of weeds up to 28 days after planting.

Disease Control: Remember most of our fungicides are protectants. They must be on the leaves to combat both early and late leafspot. Begin treatment 60 days after planting (DAP) or at least by July 15. Include a soil fungicide at this time to control white mold (southern stem rot). Repeat treatments every 14 days unless you follow the leafspot advisory program. Some materials, (Miravis SC), allow 21-28 days of protection. Consider its use for the 2nd spray and avoid their use as the last season spray. Include a soil fungicide material to control white mold. Some studies suggest Miravis may have some activity against sclerotinia blight. Remember, once 20% of the leaves have spots, another 60% are probably already infected. At that point there is little benefit from additional sprays.

Growth Regulators: Trials in Bertie County with Clint Thompson (2019) and Brandon and Mike Perry (2020) show no statistical yield or value per acre differences with the application of Apogee or Kudos. There was a statistical difference in the value per ton namely because of the higher ELK and TSMKs when comparing the 2x treatment to the check. Treatment cost were \$25, \$50 and \$75 per acre respectively for the 1x, 2x, and 3x treatments.

2020 Apogee Test

Treatment	Lbs/Acre	AVG \$/tn*	\$/Acre	ELK	SMK	TSMK	RMD
Ck	4450 a	473 b	1052	55 b	71 a	73 b	.45 a
1x	4423 a	478 ab	1057	60 a	72 a	73 b	.15 b
2x	4370 a	485 a	1060	60 a	72 a	74 a	.14 b
3x	4308 a	470 b	1012	60 a	71 a	72 c	.05 b

*calculated at \$450/tn

Insect Damage: Most Virginia varieties have rank vine growth (Sullivan being the exception), to the point that over 50% of growers use a growth regulator to gain row definition. Given that fact, our thresholds on insect (worm) damage are relatively high; 6-8 per foot of row in August, 8-10 per foot in early September and 12 or more in late September. Until recently pyrethroids have done a pretty good job with control. Now the worm complex includes more tobacco budworms and resistant corn earworm populations (as high as 40%) for which the pyrethroids are not effective. First, use proper scouting techniques to determine if a spray is needed. If so, then use one of the caterpillar insecticides such as, Steward, Intrepid Edge, Prevathon, Danitol or Exirel. These are more expensive but will do the job the first time. If scouting does not reveal adequate population levels, save that spray and the money!

Let'em mature: After a year's worth of nurturing and growth don't short your pocketbook by harvesting too soon. Give your crop every chance to gain as much weight and grade as possible. Research in 2012-2014 by Dr. David Jordan, NCSU Peanut Specialist, suggests the highest yields came from harvest during the last 2 weeks of September and the first week of October when the crop was planted May 3-4. Plan to look at each field individually to determine maturity. Knowing all fields can't be dug or harvested at the optimum time, the profile board will help order your field selection. When using the board, remember the difference between a pod in the brown class and one in the black class is about 5% in weight. Those in the orange and yellow class weigh about 25% less than the black.

2020 Peanut Yield Contest Winners

Congratulations to our **Bertie County Peanut Yield Contest Winners!** 2020 was a challenging year. Even with that we still had some great yields and some high grading peanuts across the county. Cooler temperatures in September caused most growers to have to wait on the crop to mature. In a lot of cases that added to the grade and weight. In others, especially where planting was delayed to late May or early June the yields and grade were not as good. Below are the 2020 contest winners. Congratulations!

1 st Place	Liberty Hall Farms	5554 lbs. on 217 acres
2 nd Place	Farless & Sons	5060 lbs. on 489 acres
3 rd Place	W & N Partnership	4978 lbs. on 202 acres

The Bertie County Extension office will be conducting a **Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training for (V) (Safety Class) – (Private Applicators Only)**. Due to the pandemic the training will be scheduled on four different dates as we are only allowed to have a total of ten (10) people in attendance at one time. **It is imperative you call to schedule which day and time you will be attending so that we make sure we comply.** Private pesticide applicators whose certification expires December 31, 2021 must complete 2 hours of safety (V) and 2 hours of specialized training (X) training by September 30, 2021.

The dates are:

March 9 th	9am - 11am	OR	1pm - 3pm
March 11 th	9am - 11am	OR	1pm - 3pm
March 16 th	9am - 11am	OR	1pm - 3pm
March 18 th	9am - 11am	ONLY	

The training will be held at the Windsor Community Building located at 201 South Queen Street in Windsor.

Note: Please check your mail as we have sent out a memo to all that need to attend. If you have any questions concerning the above training or would like to register please give us a call at (252) 794-5317.



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