

“First Peanuts, Then Cotton: Maturity Checks Start in Crisp”

By: Joshua Grant, ANR Agent

The reality in South Georgia, due to the overlap in our row crops' seasons is that one gets priority over the other. Physiologically cotton, though freshest when bolls first crack, can hang on to its lint. Whereas peanut plants will lose pods easier, both naturally and during harvest, with over-maturity compared to cotton. This is why blasting to check maturity is one of many great peanut harvest decision making tools, especially 120-130 days after planting.

Samples of peanuts planted in late April – early May have indeed started to trickle into the Extension office to be blasted and with over 13 thousand acres grown here in Crisp Co, as well as a large range of planting dates; we'll be checking maturity throughout Oct/Nov. As a generalization: the crop looks good, thanks to grower, scouts/consultants & pesticide applicators help; though it is not without problems. A producer asked me the other day: “how many days till 06G are ready?” A double take that I feel was brought on because of the saturated conditions post tropical storm Alberto. The wet weather we've experienced since has assisted in stalling the progression of our peanuts at one life stage or another. The result is that peanuts, 130 days old, which historically would be ready in a week or two for digging instead need three to four weeks based on the profile board (pictured above). Good news is that this is not every field and 06G's are better at retaining mature pods on their pegs, while we wait for the yellow and brown hulled pods to catch up, than other varieties.

With that said, I'm available at your convenience to blast peanuts and specifically on these dates from 8-10a at the extension office: Sept 4, 7, 12, 14, 17, 19, 24, 26 & Oct 2, 5, 8, 10, 15, 19, 24, 26, 30. Please bring vines.

Lastly, a note on management decisions in peanuts now till digging: no need for spray if you're less than three weeks out from inverting plants and you have little disease. If more than three weeks out, chlorothalonil is a good final application chemical; add tebuconazole or similar product if seeing leaf spot. Also consider the potential for tropical storms leading to digging late and severe white mold which might be a cause for earlier harvest.

For more info please contact Joshua Grant at the Crisp County Extension Office at: (229)-276-2612.