

TILLAGE

Peanuts can be produced successfully with many different tillage systems, but in any system, they do better on a slight bed. If subsoiled and bedded, knock the bed down so that at least a 16” wide flat bed is available (lower than typical cotton bed). If land is disked flat, throw up a bed with coulters on the planter. Bottom plowing is not recommended unless necessary to bury residue and reduce disease and burrower bug pressure on non-rotated fields. Bottom plowing can also reduce resistant pigweed pressure.

Strip-tillage has given equivalent yields on lighter soils and we have been able to control weeds without preplant incorporated (PPI) herbicides under irrigated strip-tillage conditions. Strip-tillage into a cover crop or other crop residue reduces tomato spotted wilt. Use coulters on the strip-till planter to establish a slight planting bed. Planting between the previous rows is recommended to minimize roots and stalks in the pegging zone. In general there are fewer worm problems in strip-till peanuts.

PLANTING

Planting Date: The best planting window for peanuts in S. C. has been from about 5 – 25 May. Large acreages (300 and up) should be spread out over a 2-week planting interval to spread harvest maturity. Peanuts do well planted the first week of May, but tomato spotted wilt risk increases with early May or late April planting (see virus management below). **The availability of improved disease resistance may increase early planting.** Fields with high CBR risk should be planted last to maximize early season soil temperatures. We have enough growing season to finish planting during the first week of June if absolutely necessary, but **harvest conditions usually deteriorate rapidly after 1 Nov.** Lower temperatures and shorter days severely limit drying time and combining hours. See the discussion on cold injury.

Soil Temperature: Should be at least 65° F at 4” depth, but soil temperature is seldom a concern for May planting in S. C.

Seeding Rate and Plant Population: Our goal is to get a uniformly emerged stand of 4 plants per row ft. to help control tomato spotted wilt virus. A seeding rate of 6 per row foot is recommended for runners (at least 5 per ft. for virginia types due to greater seed cost).

Seed Quality: Low germ. peanut seed not only require higher rates to achieve adequate stands, but can also produce plants with reduced vigor and lower yield potential. CBR is seed-transmitted - know your seed source.

**Peanut Seeding Rates
(Lbs of Seed Per Acre)***

Seed size (seed/lb)	4 seed per row ft.	5 seed per row ft.	6 seed per row ft.
450	122	153	183
500	110	138	165
550	100	125	150
600	92	115	138
650	85	106	127
700	79	98	118
750	73	92	110
800	69	86	103
850	65	81	97
900	61	76	92

*Based on 38” rows. For 36” or 30” rows, multiply seed per ft by 0.95 or 0.789 respectively to get the seed spacing for the same seed population per acre. Conversely, to maintain the same seed population per row ft on 36” or 30” rows, you would have to multiply the poundage by 1.05 or 1.27 respectively.