

Seems it's about that time of year again. Earlier planted Virginia types are starting to be dug or are nearing optimal maturity, and Hurricane Florence is in the forecast for possible early AM Friday landfall, though areas closer to the NE part of the state will likely see heavy rain come Thursday. For later planted peanuts (particularly runners) or fields that could use more moisture, this could be a good thing, but for Virginias that are near optimal maturity now this could delay field access and risk losses, especially on heavier land. If maturity is optimal now and or vine health is deteriorating due to building leaf spot infections, some fields may be better off to be dug and combined this week before the storm, even if we need to pay drying fees. Tradeoff comes from possibility of losing a large amount of mature pods (coal black becoming over mature) if we cannot get back into fields that stay wet, or if we get more days of rain than we might anticipate currently. Much of the state has been dry lately, and digging early in heavier ground may have its own losses. Slowing the digger down whenever possible will help reduce losses, easier said than done when we are up against the clock. As a reminder, if peanuts are dug before a storm without combining, receiving too many days of rain with slow drying conditions encourages fungal growth which can cause Seg II problems.

To provide some numbers to think about, Kendall and I put the following table together based off of current drying cost estimates in SC:

Kernel Moisture Content %	Low Drying Cost (\$/ton)	High Drying Cost (\$/ton)	Average Drying Cost (\$/ton)
12	15.44	25.28	20.36
14	18.20	28.74	23.47
16	21.46	32.68	27.07
18	25.30	37.15	31.22
20	29.82	42.24	36.03
22	35.16	48.03	41.59
24	41.45	54.61	48.03
26	48.87	62.09	55.48
28	57.61	70.60	64.10
30	67.92	80.27	74.09
32	80.07	91.27	85.67

On the other hand, if peanuts are 10 to 14 days out from optimal maturity or more and do not need to be dug now, consider putting out a fungicide spray to provide some protection for when the storm comes. Recently we have had dry weather, and that has certainly helped to slow down late leaf spot, but it can pick up speed again if we get a heavy dose of rain.

Some fields are showing peanuts wilting from excessive dry hot weather. In some cases, portions of fields with more drought stress have appeared to be showing slightly earlier maturity along with vine health in poorer condition. While the vine health may recover with moisture, if the kernels have pulled away from the hulls in the pods they will not develop further. If a sandy portion of a field has enough of this, it may benefit from being dug earlier than the rest of the field, also depending on overall maturity profile of those parts of the field.

TUFRunner 297 appears to be maturing closer to 150 days this year in several places.