

As we are nearing the end of another growing season, one of the things that is often on our minds is time, particularly when it comes to deciding when it is time to invert a field. Along these lines of time, The Rolling Stones had a song called “Time is on my side”. As in the song, patience is indeed a virtue (something I enjoy reminding my daughters about), but we also know that when work needs to be done in the field, time is not always on our side. We saw a bit of this during planting this spring when the latter half of May was by and large too wet to get into the field at the time. In some cases, we were able to wait out the weather and get into the fields in early June to keep things moving along. Back thinking about the end of the growing season, we know time can be limited, and the pods and pegs are not always so patient. At the same time, we also know maturity is something that cannot be rushed and needs its own time to develop, and it does not always progress at the same rate from day to day in all cases, being largely influenced by temperature and moisture availability.

The table included here is from a digging date trial that was planted May 16, 2017. Virginia types were dug at 132, 141 and 154 DAP, whereas runner types were inverted at 141, 154, and 163 DAP. Degree day accumulation (base 56°F) for this trial was 2942 at 132 DAP, 3100 at 141 DAP, 3344 at 154 DAP, and 3396 at 163 DAP. For most of the early and mid-season there was adequate moisture. Near the end of August and into early September, however, rain was in shorter supply. This slowed maturity development, and the low overall grades from this trial similarly reflect this. While this did end up making the trial results a product of the year with portions somewhat different from characteristic behavior (for example, Georgia 06G is still by and large considered an approximately 140-day variety rather than one that does better closer to 150-days as in this trial), it illustrates an important point, going back to the proof being in the pudding. Averages have their purposes and can be helpful and informative, but the reality of a situation or performance of a peanut variety in an individual field is a product of the collective conditions that field experiences over the course of that year (as well as things that happened in that field in previous years, for examples, crop rotation or heavy metal carryover). This may be stating the obvious, but the practical reminder coming from all this is that we typically get the best information on how mature or ready a field is for digging by checking pods for maturity (hull scrape/pod blast).

Another thing worth mentioning with this trial pertains to fungicide schedules. Here, fungicides were applied at a standard 15 day interval, with the last application applied at 120 DAP. Normally, if our peanuts are clean and free of leaf spot lesions, an application ending at 120 DAP would often be good to carry us to 140 DAP (provided weather conditions don't delay field access past that point), and we have sometimes been good with early maturing Virginia types to end applications at 105 DAP if the canopies were clean and free of lesions for a harvest near 132 DAP. Here, with the last application going out at 120 DAP, we more or less had some protection extending another 14 days after that to 134 DAP. What is interesting to see is how quick in some cases late leaf spot defoliation increased in the absence of further fungicide coverage, increasing anywhere from 30 to 70% over 30 days (leaf spot was visible in the canopy during the last application). While this is helpful in illustrating how end of season coverage is important, this does deserve some perspective. Virginia types rarely do best close to 150 DAP in large part due to losses from over maturity. On the flip side, while we normally do not plan to harvest Virginia

types at 154 DAP (in this case a little over 30 days after the last fungicide application), if our last application went out at 105 DAP, a 135 DAP harvest date would be 30 days after that last fungicide application. If heavy rains enter into the situation, we can further see how a final application at 105 DAP could leave us somewhat vulnerable if disease is an issue for a particular field. If we have leaf spot starting to creep into a field, sometimes an extra insurance spray near the end of the season can help time be more forgiving to our crop as we get it inverted.

As we round out the growing season and move into harvesting, I hope time will be on our side and that we have good digging and drying conditions to harvest our crop. I wish everyone a great crop and great health to go along with it!

Market type	Variety	Dig date (DAP)	LLS % defoliation	Grouping	Yield (lb/A)	Grouping	TSMK (%)	Acre value (\$/A)	Grouping	
Virginia	Bailey	132	3.3%	E	4628	.	64.2	773	.	
		141	15.8%	DE	5259	.	62.0	855	.	
		154	72.0%	A	4477	.	67.9	789	.	
	Bailey II	132	7.0%	DE	4596	.	63.0	738	.	
		141	18.5%	DE	4697	.	65.4	806	.	
		154	64.3%	A	4487	.	66.3	763	.	
	Emery	132	9.8%	DE	5067	.	61.7	813	.	
		141	21.5%	CD	5010	.	60.6	798	.	
		154	78.8%	A	4424	.	65.7	755	.	
	Sullivan	132	4.8%	DE	5076	.	60.8	801	.	
		141	9.3%	DE	5344	.	57.9	813	.	
		154	67.0%	A	4766	.	66.5	816	.	
	Runner	AU-NPL 17	141	8.5%	DE	4663	F	65.1	794	B
			154	15.0%	DE	5371	CDEF	67.3	889	A
			163	43.0%	B	4706	F	68.8	795	B
Georgia 06G		141	7.8%	DE	5245	DEF	66.6	867	B	
		154	15.5%	DE	6516	AB	71.3	1142	A	
		163	44.3%	B	6053	ABCDE	73.0	1082	A	
Georgia 13M		141	6.8%	DE	5196	EF	62.6	816	B	
		154	15.5%	DE	6540	AB	65.1	1066	A	
		163	36.3%	BC	6123	ABCD	68.5	1039	A	
Georgia 16HO		141	6.8%	DE	5779	BCDE	66.4	953	C	
		154	9.5%	DE	6762	A	69.8	1167	A	
		163	45.5%	B	5855	BCDE	73.0	1052	B	
TUFRunner 297		141	5.3%	DE	5933	ABCDE	66.6	982	B	
		154	20.8%	CD	6401	AB	70.6	1114	A	
		163	45.8%	B	6143	ABC	70.2	1067	AB	
TUFRunner 511		141	6.0%	DE	5437	CDEF	67.3	903	AB	
		154	21.5%	CD	5761	BCDE	68.3	982	A	
		163	64.0%	A	4841	F	70.3	837	B	

Seasonal Rainfall, Irrigation, and Air Temperature EREC, Blackville , SC 2017

