

Managing Peanut in Southeastern North Carolina.

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Peanut has been an important crop in southeastern North Carolina for many years. Changes in farm legislation have allowed greater flexibility in peanut production, and growers in southeastern North Carolina have taken advantage of this opportunity. With the governmental system altered dramatically, many growers are able to increase production and many have no intentions of slowing down; there has also been an increase in new growers in southeastern NC. As markets and contracts become more available to growers in our area, enhancing quality of peanuts has become essential for farmers in order to receive the highest contracts possible. With increasing peanut acreage the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service is an important source of information for producing a top quality commodity. With the aid of NCSU specialist, the county agents can present the latest information at production meetings and various field days. Extension personnel also offer a "pod blasting" field day where growers can bring samples to determine maturity of the peanuts in order to dig at the optimum time. A peanut disease advisory has also become an integral part of peanut production in NC. We offer the advisory to all producers and encourage advisory use on all farms.