

# Determining Optimum Digging Dates for the Top New Peanut Varieties in the SE

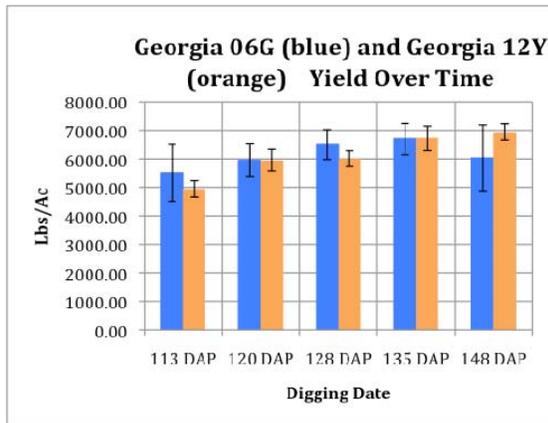
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*Better prediction of harvest dates for current varieties will improve peanut growers ability schedule harvest dates, improving profitability, labor and equipment use. Yet the methods we now use are not optimized for current varieties*

## Objectives

New peanut varieties have a wide range of optimum harvest maturities and significant differences in the amount of pods lost if that date is missed. Our objective with this project is to:

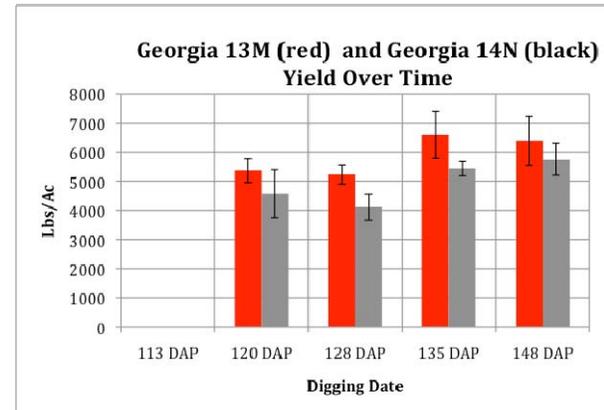
- Investigate new methods to determine maturity,
- To update the hull-scrape peanut maturity profile chart to reflect optimum harvest date assessment for the top SE peanut varieties
- To document the affect on yield and grade that missing the optimum date by one and two weeks has on these varieties



**Results:** Determining the best harvest date requires growers to balance expected weight gain from immature pods and weight loss they expect from mature pods stems weakening, the state of leaf and limb disease in the field and expected weather.

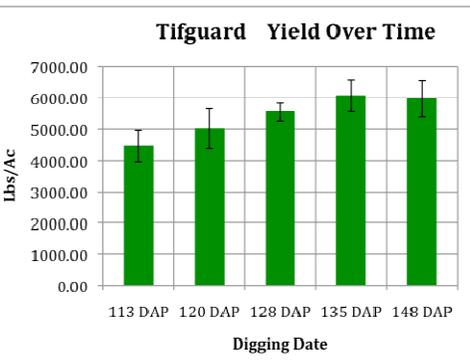
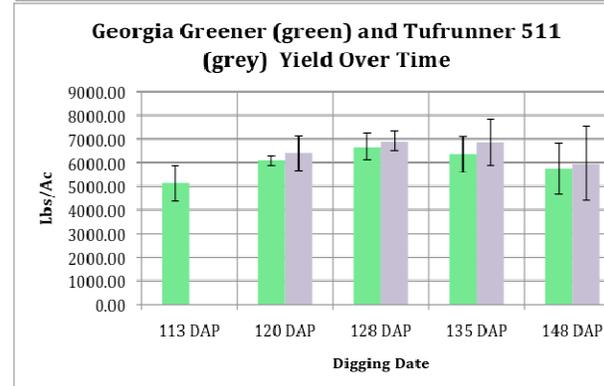
New varieties with improved disease resistance and new disease control chemicals have improved pod stem strength. This year we noted that the old Hull-Scrape chart was

successful at predicting Georgia Greener's best harvest date. The Hull-Scrape chart predicted 06G and Tifguard about a week earlier than needed; 12 Y was predicted 14 to 20 days early. 13M and 14N



were best predicted at the earliest (before 106 days) Hull-Scrapes, the later Hull-Scrapes did not progress as expected, as the black layer did not move.

Getting an accurate assessment of the pods lost to the soil before digging, during the digging process and during the combining process is challenging. Diseases, like White Mold, that often occur in patches, further complicate this assessment. Thus, when dealing with small plots and even smaller dig and sift the soil sub-plots, the variability is significant.



For this reason we are planing to conduct many of our 2016 trials in grower fields where we can replicate large plots and multiple digging dates and better document yield over time and the reasons for pod losses. Soil types and preparation, disease and pest control, irrigation, weather, labor and equipment information will also be gathered.