

# Eastern N. Carolina Is Largest Producer Of Peanuts In World

Grows More Virginia Type Peanuts Than Virginia—Start Harvest Soon

By MAYON PARKER

Virginia type peanuts, they called them—the big jumbo and large bunch varieties that fill the air with a mouth-watering aroma when they are roasting at the corner peanut vendor's stand, and the same as serves as a nerve-steadier at tense moments during baseball games and circus performances.

But the largest producing area in the world for this type of peanuts is in North Carolina, in the northeastern tier of counties which include Bertie, the largest peanut growing county in the world, Martin, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, Gates and Chowan.

In a few weeks, beginning during the last ten days of September, in these counties, and a few others along the eastern seaboard to a process of harvesting this crop which, in value and importance, ranks with tobacco and exceeds King Cotton.

The growing season has been favorable and the crop should be one of good yield and quality, although wet weather during the digging period could do much damage to the gobbers.

Needs Little Fertilizer

The peanut—a hardy, nitrogenous plant, requires little or no commercial fertilizer to produce and is easy to cultivate. Using the method of crop rotation, farmers generally plant peanuts in land following cotton or corn, applying no fertilizer but broadcasting a few hundred pounds of lime per acre if the soil is lime-starved.

They are planted, after the land has been flushed, on lists from 2 feet 8 inches to 3 feet apart, depending on the choice of the particular grower. Shelled nuts are drilled in about an inch deep, one kernel to the hill, eight to ten inches apart. Planters specially designed for peanut planting are used. Planting time is from the first to the fifteenth of May.

When the plants have broken through, usually in about a week from planting, they are cultivated in practically the same fashion as as cotton, plowing and weeding continuing until around the first of August, when the growth of vines is approaching the final stage, small yellow blooms of the plant have appeared and the first formation of the nuts below the soil begins. Simultaneous with, or just following, the final "plowing out" or hilling, an application of crushed limestone, called "land plaster" commercially, is given the tops of the plants, the purpose of the lime being to give the plant and the soil the ingredients for forming firm hulls on the outside of the nuts and well-filled kernels within.

Digging The Crop

From then until digging time, the peanut plant which, if the bunch variety, has attained a height of about twelve inches and is beginning to hide the middle of the rows, or if the runner type to "pin down" along the middles, takes care of itself. With approach of October, when the first of the lower leaves begin to shed from the vines, digging starts and it is a busy time with the peanut farmer. For then, like the tobacco farmer when his crop begins to ripen, when peanuts are ready he must get them or they will be lost, shedding from the vines and remaining in the soil.

The plants are plowed out of the soil with a turning plow along each side of the rows, cutting the tap or principal root of the plant. Then follows back-breaking hand labor of shaking the roots, with the nuts clinging to them, free from the soil in which they grew. The vines and nuts, shaken free of dirt, are then piled on conical-shaped stacks, one stack-row to every ten rows of peanuts, the stacks about fifteen feet apart, with the nuts toward the center of the stack and vines outward. There the crop remains until the sun has cured the green vines and driven the sap from hulls and kernels.

Machine Pickers

From two or four weeks is required for the stacked peanuts to be sufficiently cured for the final step in harvesting, picking. Machines are employed for this work, a type specially designed which cards the nuts from the vines without crushing or threshing them and frees them from trash, dirt and faulty nuts, called "pops." It is a dirty, hard job, is picking peanuts. Five to ten men, working in the stifling dirt and dust, are required to handle the labor around the machine, the usual capacity of which is from 125 to 200 bags per day.

As the peanuts are separated by the peanut picker from the vines, they are placed in jute bags, bag and peanuts weighing around 90 pounds on an average. The peanuts are then ready to be sold to the cleaners and millers, if the price suits the farmer or he is forced to sell because of debt to the banker or supply merchant; or they may be stored in the farm barns or commercial storage houses to await better prices. An acre produces from 8 to 25 bags of peanuts, with 15 bags per acre considered a good average crop.

Vines Are Baled

The vines are baled for hay by the farm mules and livestock the peanut crop doing double duty as a "money crop" and a forage crop at once. Finally, the hogs are turned into the bare peanut fields to fatten on the nuts that shed from the vines during the digging.

It is the practice followed by better farmers to sow a cover crop when the peanuts are dug. This protects the land from winter erosion and returns some vegetation to the soil to replace the fertility sapped from it by the removal of all cover when the peanuts were harvested. Otherwise, the peanut fields stand bare and bleached throughout the winter.

All feed crops are particularly promising, and vegetables and fruits are in abundance. Farmers are in excellent spirits, and the majority of them say that they are in better financial condition than they have been in six years.—E. P. Josey, Anderson, S. C.

# TRUCK CROPS

## Sweet Potatoes Will Move In Volume From Carolina Next Month

Shipments Started From Northeast Section—Moderate Crop Forecast

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE

A moderately heavy crop of sweet potatoes will be harvested this season. Most of the Eastern and Southern states have larger crops than last season but yields are not expected to be excessive. Some of the states in the Middle West and Southwest will be only fair because of dry weather.

From a shipping standpoint the Eastern Shore of Virginia is one of the most important sections, particularly during the fall months. Harvesting began on the Eastern Shore immediately after the first of the month and for the next two or three months will supply a large part of the sweets moving to market. Acreage is slightly below normal on the Eastern Shore but the crop has made a good growth and it will be a greater competitive factor than it was last season. The tendency will be for the Eastern Shore to hold back the North Carolina movement until later in the season.

Maryland sweet potatoes have had rather spotted growing conditions and the crop is fine in some places and only fair in others. Some digging has already started but most of the crop will move to market after the first of September. The marketing season usually lasts longer than it does in Virginia. Prospects are that the crop in Maryland will be somewhat larger than it was last season.

Delaware conditions are similar to those in Maryland but the Delaware crop has not made quite as good progress. Most of the Delaware crop is harvested during late September and October and is held over for later in the season, the movement extending into late winter.

Good Crop In Jersey

There is a good crop in New Jersey—somewhat better, perhaps, than the last Government estimate would indicate. A few Jersey sweets are being dug but the movement does not become important until later in September. The Jersey season lasts into the following summer as a good share of the crop is carefully stored and kiln dried for late use. In fact, some oldcrop sweets were coming into the New York market the last week in August along with the first of the new crop. There is great irregularity in the pack of Jersey sweets although some of them are about the finest sweet potato packs that reach market.

Early sweets have been moving to market from the northeastern part of North Carolina for some time and more than 100 carloads have been loaded to date. However, the important section around Beaufort will not start to move any quantity of sweets until the first part of October. The crop in this section was held back by dry weather but recently it has had very good growing conditions and a nice quality potato is expected from this section.

South Carolina is not important as a sweet potato shipper since most of the crop is used for local consumption. However, in total production it is a fairly important state. The crop this season is just about average.

Most of the early crop in Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Baldwin County, Alabama, has already been marketed. The late crops in Georgia and Alabama have been helped by recent rains and dried and shipped during the balance of the a good crop of late Porto Rican sweets is anticipated. Most of the Porto Ricans are in season.

Louisiana Coming Ahead

There will be only a moderate crop in Tennessee this year unless weather conditions are highly favorable for the balance of the growing period. Rainfall has been light in West Tennessee for the past few weeks and has curtailed the crop. However, a few sections had showers recently and in those areas the crop has made some improvement.

One of the states that is coming to the fore as a sweet potato shipper in Louisiana. Acreage was increased this season and the crop has made good growth. Shipments are moving out steadily by rail and truck and indications are that there will be a good movement of sweets from Louisiana all fall and winter. One of the reasons why Louisiana has forged ahead is the fact that packing and grading methods have been improved in recent years. Louisiana sweets are gaining a reputation in many markets.

Southern Illinois have small but highly commercialized sweet potato districts that are a factor in supplying the Middle West. This year the crops in these districts are excellent and will run to bumper yields whereas last year they were largely failures.

Other states west of the Mississippi River have mostly fair to good crops this season. None of them have bumper crops but last season they were out of the picture because of the drought conditions.

One of the peculiarities of sweet potato demand is the poor reception given the yams or moist type sweet potatoes in the northeastern markets. New York and New England use the dry meated Big Stem Jersey type of sweets for the most part and thus far have not been thoroughly sold on the merits of such varieties as the Nancy Hall and Porto Rico. There is a big field here for someone to develop a demand for this type of sweet potato or yam in the Northeast.

Prices of sweet potatoes have opened about the same as they did last year and will probably work downward as the heavy movement from the Eastern Shore gets under way. Later in the season the market usually works back to slightly better levels. Just what it will do then, if they continue to improve the sweet this season depends largely on business conditions. The potato market should average a little better than it did last season.

Five Klondike bulls have been placed in Henderson County, N. C., this year in the dairy improvement program.

## Farmers Are Growing Vegetables For Fall And Winter Contests

Planting Should Be Done In September State Horticulturist Advises

In the eastern half of North Carolina most fall and winter vegetables are best planted in September, says E. B. Morrow, extension horticulturist at N. C. State College.

Rural families who are going to enter the fall and winter garden contest conducted this year by the extension service under the direction of Miss Mary E. Thomas, extension nutritionist, should start their gardens at once, Morrow added.

It is too late to plant tender crops, but the harder vegetables will produce a good crop if planted during this month.

Head lettuce may be grown if planted fairly early this month. Lettuce requires sunny days, cool nights, and plenty of moisture.

Kale will give a change from collards and turnip greens if planted at this time. The two most common types are Siberian and green curled Scotch. The Siberian is the most hardy of the two, and will withstand fairly heavy frosts.

Mustard is an old standby, he continued. Succession plantings should be made every two weeks until the middle of October.

Although very tender when cooked, spinach is a hardy plant that will withstand extreme cold, Morrow stated, and more of it should be planted in the home gardens.

Turnips, radishes, and broccoli may also be planted this month, he added. Cabbage and onion seed may be sown in outdoor beds the latter part of the month and transplanted in December, January, or February.

## S. Carolina Planning Big Cabbage Acreage For The Coming Fall

State's Crop Was Very Successful Last Season—Prospects Good

Cabbage is moving to market at a slower rate than it did last season which may have an effect on the later market. Because of drought conditions last year the big cabbage sections in Wisconsin and New York were able during late August to ship a great many cars into drought sections and relieve their own surplus conditions. This season the homegrown crop of cabbage is better throughout the country and there is less call for carlot shipments from the outside.

The cabbage crop in New York State has been troubled by worms but otherwise has made good progress and is coming along nicely. It is quite possible that the New York crop will run to almost as large a tonnage as it did last season.

## Snap Bean Crop May Make A Good Gamble

Last season the Carolinas produced a moderate acreage of snap beans for fall shipment. This crop is always subject to some risk because prices depend on frosts to a large extent. An early and killing frost in the states farther north make it possible to sell Carolina fall beans at handsome prices. On the other hand, frosts sometimes hit the Carolina crop before it is all harvested.

Just at present the outlook is fairly hopeful. New York and Michigan will be practically through harvesting snap beans by early October. New Jersey has a normal acreage which will be coming into market in heaviest supply the last week of September, or just ahead of the Carolinas. Florida is a little later in starting which will give the Carolinas most of the month of October in which to market their crops.

There is a steady demand for snap beans and any shortage in supplies, even for a few days, brings a quick upturn in price.

## Questions

1. Yellowstone National Park is in three states. What are they?
2. What city is used as the base of naval war games and maneuvers in the Pacific?
3. What is the capital of the country which lies between France and Spain?
4. What and where is the world's largest active volcano?
5. Where is the Riviera?
6. Of what country is Reykjavik the capital?
7. Name the Central American Republics.
8. What is the name of and where is the island on which Napoleon died?
9. To what country is the name Antipodes sometimes applied?
10. Press reports say that Great Britain fears Japanese influence on Siam. What is the capital of this monarchy?

# Mann To Explain How Best To Utilize New 10 Cent Cotton Loan

Series Of 31 Meetings Will Be Held In Main Cotton Producing Areas

Just how farmers can best take advantage of the government 10-cent loan plan will be explained by M. G. Mann, general manager of the State Cotton Association, at a series of 31 meetings to be held in the State's main cotton producing counties.

The meetings will be open to the public and all cotton farmers are urged to attend. The meetings will be held in the county court houses and the schedule of time and place as follows:

Wednesday, September 11—Rockingham 11 a. m.; Laurinburg 2:30 p. m.; Thursday, September 12—Racford 11 a. m.; Fayetteville 2:30 p. m.; Friday, September 13—Lillington, 11 a. m.; Sanford 2:30 p. m.; Saturday, September 14—Goldsboro 11 a. m.; Smithfield 2:30 p. m.; Tuesday, September 17—Lumberton 11 a. m.; Wadesboro 2:30 p. m.; Wednesday, September 18—Monroe 11 a. m.; Charlotte 2:30 p. m.; Thursday, September 19—Lincolnton 11 a. m.; Newton 2:30 p. m.; Friday, September 20—Statesville 11 a. m.; Salisbury 2:30 p. m.; Tuesday, September 24—Clinton 2:30 p. m.; Wednesday, September 25—Louisburg 11 a. m.; Nashville 2:30 p. m.; Thursday, September 26—Halifax 11 a. m.; Jackson 2:30 p. m.; Friday, September 27—Tarboro 11 a. m.; Williamston a. m.; Greenville 2:30 p. m.; Wednesday, October 2:30 p. m.; Saturday, September 28—Windsor 11 a. m.; Tuesday, October 1—Warrenton 11 tober 2—Snow Hill 11 a. m.; Kinston 2:30 p. m.; Thursday, October 3—Albemarle 11 a. m.; Concord 2:30 p. m.; Friday, October 4—Shelby 11 a. m.

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