

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE  
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**IMPORTANT STEPS IN GROWING PEANUTS**

By E. A. Miller, Extension Agronomist

1. The Spanish peanut is the most commonly grown commercial variety. The Macspan variety was recently developed by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station through selection from the little Spanish. The new variety is a more vigorous grower, better yielder, and bears larger and more uniform pods than the Spanish. The seed, however, is still scarce.

2. Peanuts can be grown on a large variety of soils, but they do best on light gray sandy loam. Light colored soils produce bright clean nuts while red or dark soils stain the hulls, which reduces their market value. The land should be loose and friable, so that the pegs on which the peanuts develop, can easily penetrate.

3. The land should be well prepared in the fall or early spring, and allowed to settle before planting. If any young weeds appear, they should be destroyed by means of a disk harrow, or other harrow or weeder.

4. Fertilizers for peanuts on sandy soil should have approximately a 1-3-1 ratio of plant food, such as 3-10-3. Although the peanut is a legume, some nitrogen in the fertilizer usually proves profitable as it helps to give the young plants a more vigorous start. Good results however, have been obtained by not including any nitrogen in the fertilizer. From 200 to 300 pounds of fertilizer per acre, is suggested. An application of lime is also beneficial, if the soil is deficient in lime.

5. Peanuts should be planted about the same time as cotton, in 2½ to 3 ft. rows and below the level rather than on beds.

6. The seed will germinate somewhat quicker, if the pods are hulled or broken in two pieces, than when planted whole, but at the Nacogdoches Station, no marked difference in yield was obtained.

7. It requires from 30 to 35 pounds of seed in the hull, or about 25 pounds of hulled seed to plant an acre of Spanish peanuts in 3 ft. rows. The plants should be about 6 inches apart in the row.

8. Peanuts are planted by hand, or by riding or walking planters. If planted by hand the peanuts should be dropped in the furrows, and then covered by a small furrow on each side of the row.

9. Peanuts should be given frequent, shallow cultivation to keep down weeds and grass and to keep the soil loose. The soil should be gradually worked to the plants and should be loose when the pegs begin to form. Do not cover up the blossoms, as it will prevent proper pollination. The vines must not be disturbed after they begin to peg down.

10. The peanuts may be harvested for the nuts, and hay, when the foliage begins to turn a yellowish green color, or they may be grazed by hogs.

11. Peanuts are cured after the dirt has been taken off by placing the plants in small stacks, around 6 ft. poles set in the ground and having a cross piece 24 inches long nailed at the base of the pole about 6 inches above the ground. The plants are stacked around the poles with the forage outside, and the nuts towards the center.

12. Peanuts should be grown in rotation with other crops and should be followed by winter cover crops to be plowed under in the spring to restore the humus content of the soil, and to keep up the soil fertility.