

## IMPORTANT STEPS IN GROWING PEANUTS

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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.

2. Peanuts can be grown on a large variety of soils, but they do best on light 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 0-3-1 or 1-3-1 ratio of plant food, such as 0-12-4 or 3-10-3. Although the peanut is a legume, some nitrogen in the fertilizer usually proves profitable if the seed or soil have not been well inoculated. 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. It is good crop insurance to inoculate the seed with commercial bacterial culture before planting. The bacteria produce nodules on the roots and utilize the nitrogen of the air, thereby increasing the yield. Experiments and demonstrations have shown that it often pays well to inoculate the seed with reliable culture, which has the bacterial count printed on the container. Be sure to follow directions on the container closely. The culture may be obtained either from your local seed dealer, or from the larger seed houses.

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

7. 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.

8. 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.

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

10. Peanuts should be given 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.

11. 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.

12. Peanuts are cured by placing the plants in small stacks, around 6-foot 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 toward the center after the dirt has been shaken off.

13. 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.