

Fact Sheet: Peanuts



- Alabama produces more than 400 million pounds of peanuts annually.
- About half the peanuts produced in the U.S. are grown in a 100-mile radius of Dothan.
- Alabama's top peanut-producing counties are Houston, Baldwin, Henry and Geneva.
- Alabama has about 900 peanut farmers.



- The U.S. has about 3 percent of the world's acreage of peanuts but grows nearly 10 percent of the world's crop because of higher yields per acre.
- About half of all edible peanuts produced in the U.S. are used to make peanut butter and peanut spreads.
- One acre of peanuts will make 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches.
- It takes 450 peanuts to make a 12-ounce jar of peanut butter.
- Other peanut products include roasted peanuts, snack peanuts, peanuts used in candy and peanuts pressed for oil.
- The peanut is unusual because it flowers above the ground, but fruits below the ground.
- There are four main varieties of peanuts: Runner, Virginia, Spanish and Valencia.
- Alabama produces predominately runner peanuts. Runner peanuts account for nearly 80 percent of U.S. peanut production.
- Virginia peanuts are roasted and processed in-shell.
- Spanish peanuts are smaller and used in candies, snack nuts and peanut butter.
- Valencia peanuts are usually roasted and sold in-shell.
- Peanuts are also called goobers, goober peas, pindars, ground nuts, earth nuts, monkey nuts, and grass nuts.
- Peanut seeds are planted about 2 inches deep every 3-4 inches in rows about 3 feet apart. Seeds do best in sandy soil, especially soil rich in calcium.
- Depending on the variety, 120 to 160 frost-free days are required for a good crop.

Sources:
Whitleyspeanut.com
Alpeanuts.com