

Peanut



Assessing peanut varieties

Peanut originated in South America, and today it is widely grown for oil, roasted nuts, peanut butter and other products. Research on peanut breeding at FAES dates back to 1920, and in 1928, the first successful cross of peanuts was made by F.H. Hull.

The first FAES variety was **Dixie Runner**, released by W.A. Carver and cooperators in 1943. Other varieties were released from the project during the 1950s and early 1960s, but the release of **Florunner** by A.J. Norden and cooperators in 1969 was a signal event for the peanut breeding program. This variety offered major gains in yield potential, and it was grown on over 70 percent of the peanut production acreage in the U.S. for several years in the late 1970s and early 1980s. **Southern Runner** (1986) was the first variety released with resistance to leafspot disease. The **Georgia Green** variety (University of Georgia) has dominated southeastern U.S. production for the past few years, mainly because of its tomato spotted-wilt virus resistance, selected from its Southern Runner parent. **SunOleic 95R** (1996) was the first “high-oleic” (80+ percent oleic FA) peanut variety released in the world. This type of peanut has

improved storability and shelf life and has promise to reduce the incidence of heart disease

Resistance to tomato spotted-wilt virus and several other important diseases is of key importance in the current breeding program. Improvement of yield and quality, especially of oil chemistry and flavor, are key factors in the current effort. The University of Florida Research Foundation has three utility patents on “high-oleic” oil chemistry.

When Florunner was released in 1969, peanut yields were about 2,000 lbs per acre or less. The new varieties, along with new production technology, have increased average yields to 3000 lbs per acre today. These contributions to the peanut industry were the result of eighty-three years of research and development at FAES. Today, Dan Gorbet and Ben Whitty continue the tradition of offering the best peanut varieties to producers.

Important Characteristics for Selection in the FAES Peanut Breeding Program

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| Pod/seed yields | Drought resistance |
| Pod/seed grades | Mechanization |
| Maturity | Seed dormancy |
| Pest resistance | Stability |
| Chemical quality | Processing characteristics |
| Flavor | Food quality |

Peanut Varieties Developed by FAES Breeders

Variety	Date of Release	Variety	Date of Release
Dixie Runner	1943	Southern Runner	1986
Early Runner	1952	Marc I	1990
Florispan	1953	Andru 93	1993
Florigiant	1961	SunOleic® 95R	1994
Florunner	1969	SunOleic® 97R	1997
Altika	1972	Florida MDR 98	1998
NC Florida 14	1974	C-99R	1999
Early Bunch	1977	ANorden, Carver, Hull, Andrull,	
Sunrunner	1983	GP-1, DP-1	2002