Perennial Peanut

Dennis W. Hancock,
Extension Forage Agronomist,
Crop and Soil Sciences Department

AT-A-GLANCE: Perennial Peanut

**Adaptation:** Lower Coastal Plain, generally below the 31.5°N latitude (roughly a line from Albany to Jesup). Requires well drained sandy soils. Tolerant (but less productive) on low soil fertility or low pH.

**Establishment:** Rhizomes are planted at 80 to 120 bu/A on prepared land from December to early March. Herbicide essential. Requires 2 to 3 years for establishment. Irrigation can shorten this time period. ([Source List of Perennial Peanut Planting Material](#))

**Variety:** Florigraze for hay or pasture (Arbrook can be used for hay in far S. Georgia)

Perennial peanut is a rhizomatous peanut species that produces high-quality forage and persists well in the area in which it is adapted. This tropical legume is native to South America in a region that mostly lies north of the 30°S latitude. As a result, perennial peanut generally does not survive well north of the 31.5°N latitude (roughly a line from Albany to Jesup). Within these locations, it is best suited to well-drained sandy or sandy loam soils. Varieties that are currently available do not have good cold tolerance and may winter-kill during severe winters.

Perennial peanuts are established by planting rhizomes during December – early March at 80 bushels per acre (up to 120 bushels per acre, if sprigs are inexpensive or freely available.). Perennial peanut may require two years or more to develop a solid stand after sprigging. The establishment phase will be minimized under irrigation. Once established, the stands do not generally tolerate close or continuous grazing. As a result, perennial peanut is primarily recommended for hay production. As a high-quality legume, perennial peanut is an excellent hay and baled silage crop.