

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA . COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE  
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PEANUTS

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It is easy to grow many vegetables in Hawaii including the popular peanuts eaten by almost everyone. Peanuts thrive in warm weather and require a relatively long growing season. It does best in temperatures ranging from 60-90° F., preferring the warmer temperature.

Varieties

There are two distinct groups of peanuts, the bunch type and the runner type; the latter spreads widely on the ground. The two general types of peanuts are the Spanish, which has small sweet pods with 2-3 kernels to a pod, a more dwarf bush which grows close to the ground. It is easily cultivated, gathered, and a heavy bearer and is a widely grown variety. The Jumbo Virginia is a variety of the runner type. Virginia produces 1-2 large kernels per pod and matures approximately within 120 days.

Soil Management and Fertilization

A wide range of soil types from sandy loam to gravelly loam soil is best for peanuts. A light soil color is also important. Good drainage also is necessary. A soil pH of 5.8-6.2 is desirable. Heavier soils should be well tilled and drained. The color of the pods depend on the soil color; pods become darker in dark red soils especially when soils have high moisture capacity and is clayey in nature. Tilling the soil deeply about 8-10 inches and adding sand and compost to the clayey layer will improve the aeration of the soil. The addition of calcium to the soils where the pH is below 5.8 will generally increase the yield. Addition of phosphate and potassium fertilizers will also insure good roots to develop. If manure is to be used, mix it well into the soil 1-3 months prior to planting. Apply fertilizer such as 10-20-20 at the rate of 2-3 pounds per 100 ft.<sup>2</sup> at the time of planting and again when plants are about 4-6 inches tall. Thereafter, 1-2 applications by side dressing before flowering will insure the plants of a sufficient quantity of nutrients till maturity.

Planting

Plant the seeds in 1½ to 2 feet rows. The seeds can be planted either with the hull or shelled, but no deeper than 2 inches and about 10-18 inches apart.

Irrigation

Irrigate peanuts as often as necessary to prevent early setback of plants. It is quite important to lessen the amount of water when peanuts near maturity since excess moisture will darken the peanut shell particularly if the soil color is dark.

Cultivation

Peanuts must be kept weed free and be frequently cultivated. Shallow cultivation will keep the ground tilled at a mellow but not a loose condition. Hill rows