

# TECHNICAL NOTES

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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

## GRAZING LANDS TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 5

### MANAGEMENT OF RHIZOMA PEANUT

Rhizoma peanut (*Arachis glabrata*), also known as perennial peanut, is a warm season perennial legume introduced into the United States from South America. It reproduces and spreads by rhizomes. Rhizoma peanut produces forage similar in quality to alfalfa and is adapted to growing conditions in the extreme southeastern US. In Louisiana, planting should be limited to the area south of I-20. Recently, several producers in Louisiana have become interested in rhizoma peanut as a high-value hay crop and limited grazing. Agronomy Technical Note No. 96 addresses the establishment of rhizoma peanut. The purpose of this technical note is to provide forage harvest management and grazing management recommendations.

#### FORAGE HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Rhizoma peanut should be harvested at a frequency and height that will maintain a desired healthy plant community through its life expectancy. Although the highest forage quality can be obtained with frequent harvest, two or three cuttings a year appear to be appropriate in Louisiana. To help ensure plant survival and rapid regrowth, it is important to leave an adequate amount of leaf area on the plant after harvest. The growth stage or height to harvest is from early to full bloom or when regrowth is 10-12 inches. The minimum stubble height is 2 inches.

Most growth of rhizoma peanut in Louisiana occurs over the 16-week period of May through August. Therefore, either 2 harvests at 8-week growth periods (56 days) or 3 harvests at 5 to 6-week growth periods (42 days) are possible.

#### GRAZING

Rhizoma peanut is used primarily for hay, but can be used for pasture. It has potential for use as a forage plant for livestock enterprises requiring high quality feed such as supplemental grazing of dairy cows, creep grazing of nursing calves, and high growth rates by stocker calves and replacement heifers.

Continuous grazing is not recommended. Rotational grazing which allows a 3 week rest between grazing periods is preferred. Begin grazing rhizoma peanut at 6 inches and end grazing at 4 inches.

Johanna Pate  
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## **REFERENCES**

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