USDA United States Department of Agriculture

A Conservation Plant Released by The Natural Resources Conservation Service
Brooksville Plant Materials Center, Brooksville, Florida

'ARBROOK'
Rhizoma peanut

Arachis glabrata Benth.

Figure 1: 'Arbrook' showing typical larger leaflets and more upright, open stand characteristics of Arbrook compared to 'Florigraze'. Photo: V. Guerra.

'Arbrook' rhizoma peanut (*Arachis glabrata* Benth.) was released in 1985 jointly by University of Florida and the USDA NRCS Brooksville Plant Materials Center (PMC) for hay or silage but it can be used as a grazing crop.

Description

Arbrook is a long-lived, perennial relative of the edible annual peanut (*A. hypogea*). It is a larger plant than the earlier released rhizoma peanut cultivar, 'Florigraze'. It has coarser rhizomes and more extensive root system than Florigraze which makes it better adapted to doughtier soils. Arbrook starts growth earlier in the spring than Florigraze and will produce more forage in the dry spring portion of the year than Florigraze. Like other rhizoma peanut genotypes it produces very little seed and must be vegetatively established using rhizomes.

Figure 2: Rhizoma peanut hay production in Georgia. Photo: North Carolina Extension.

Source

All members of the *Arachis* genus are native to South America. Arbrook was introduced from Paraguay in 1959 and initially tested as PI 262817 at the USDA NRCS Arcadia and Brooksville PMC locations, hence the name "Arbrook".

Conservation Uses

Arbrook is primarily recommended for hay production. Arbrook averages yields about 10,000 lb/acre, which is similar to the newer cultivar releases, 'UF Peace' and 'UF Tito', but about 2,000 lb/acre on average higher than Florigraze. Due to its more erect growth habit, Arbrook is not as tolerant of close grazing as Florigraze and rotational grazing in necessary to ensure stand persistence.

Area of Adaptation and Use

Arbrook is recommended for the droughty, well drained soils of peninsular Florida. It is less cold tolerant than Florigraze and recommended for the warmer parts of USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 8b and higher.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

In most cases, areas to be planted with Arbrook will need to have the existing vegetation killed prior to planting by tillage, herbicide, or a combination of both methods. The plant bed should be well prepared by tillage and then cultipacked prior to planting. The recommended planting rate for Arbrook, 100 to 125 bushels/acre, which is about 25% higher than Florigraze due to its larger rhizomes. Do not let rhizomes dry out or go through a heat; if possible. Plant rhizomes within 24 hours of digging. Inoculation is not required because there is sufficient rhizobium on the roots of the rhizomes. Broadcast rhizomes and disk them in or plant rhizomes 1.5 to 2 inches deep with a sprig planter. Regardless of planting method, cultipack after planting. The recommended planting date for rhizomes is in the winter when they are dormant. Rhizomes can be planted during the summer rainy season if rhizome material are available, but weed competition is usually greater during the summer. Irrigation will enhance establishment regardless of planting method or time of year. Use mowing (topping) or herbicides to control weeds. Consult local extension office for herbicide recommendations. Follow extension recommendations for rhizoma peanut fertilization during establishment and for subsequent production, although recent studies have shown nitrogen application of 45 lb/acre during the year of establishment enhances stand establishment, if weeds are adequately controlled.

Lateral spread of Arbrook is slower than Florigraze, and without irrigation, it may take 3 to 4 years for full stand coverage. Grazing or haying management should favor the rhizoma peanut component of the stand, particularly during the establishment year. With irrigation, fields established for rhizome production should not be dug until at least 2-years after planting. Without irrigation, fields may not be mature enough for digging until 3 to 4 years after planting. Fields dedicated to rhizome production produce the greatest amount of high-quality rhizomes.

Ecological Considerations
All rhizoma peanut cultivars and germplasm produce relatively little seed, so spread is dependent upon transplanting by humans or lateral growth of existing plants. Arbrook rhizoma peanut have been planted widely in Florida for hay for many years, and to date there has been no reports of any rhizoma peanut invading adjacent natural communities. Due to its more limited rhizome system, Arbrook is less likely to spread into adjoining areas than Florigraze.

Seed and Plant Production
One acre of a well-managed rhizome production fields will usually yield enough Arbrook rhizomes to plant 20-25 acres at the 100 bushels/acre rate.

Availability
For conservation use: Rhizomes available from commercial sources.

For seed or plant increase: Foundation planting material is maintained at the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Direct requests for planting material for commercial production to the Manager, USDA NRCS Brooksville Plant Materials Center.

For More Information
USDA NRCS Brooksville Plant Materials Center, 14119 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34610
Phone: 352-796-9600 (www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/flpmc).

Citation
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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <http://plants.usda.gov> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>