

**B-73 : EFFECT OF PLANTING TIME ON GROUNDNUT  
YIELD AT ARALAGANWILA DURING MAHA**

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Six planting times were evaluated in the field conditions at Aralanganwila during Maha 1990/91 and 1991/92. Results showed significant variations of plant growth, incidence of pests and diseases and pod yield in relation to different planting time.

Planting in mid October and early November gave better vegetative growth, higher yields and lower incidence of pests and diseases. The plantings later than this period showed poor plant establishment due to the effect of heavy rains in Maha season. The crops in late plantings were severely affected by fungal diseases such as rust, early leaf spots and late leaf spots during the flowering stage of the crop. These diseases affected the early planting only during the maturity stage and that showed no serious effect on reduction of yields. Further, late plantings were suffered from severe infestations of insect pest such as leaf eating caterpillars and aphids. Weather factors were more favourable for the crops in early plantings than that in late plantings.

Thus, there is a possibility to maximize groundnut yields by adjusting the planting time to the period from mid October to early November for Maha crop in Mahaweli system B.