Peanuts

*Arachis hypogaea*

(Leguminosae)
Peanuts
Arachis hypogaea
(Leguminosae)

• Plant Structure & Categorization
• Origination & History
• Peanut Products
Plant Structure

Arachis hypogaea L.
Image processed by Thomas Schoepke
www.plant-pictures.de

Peanut Plant
Arachis hypogaea

- Leaf
- Stem
- Yellow flower
- Peg
- Soil level
- Roots
- Peanut
Peanut Categories & Types

Categories:

A) Runner
   - Virginia-type
   - Runner-type
B) Bunch
   - Spanish-type
   - Valencia-type
• Originated in present-day Peru & Brazil

• Time of origination disputed, cultivated sometime between 300 BC and 2500 BC

• First cultivated by the Incas

• Spanish & Portuguese explorers arrived in South America around 1500

• Peanuts were spread to Africa, Europe, and Asia primarily by Portuguese traders

• Peanuts were very likely spread to the United States through slave trade
History of US Peanut Production

- Early on, peanuts were viewed as an inferior food

- Used mainly for feeding hogs to produce ‘soft pork’

- The Civil War marked a turning point for the peanut as both sides used it as a source of food
The History of US Peanut Production

Two important factors in the early 1900s:

1) Boll Weevil

2) Invention of farm machinery
The History of US Peanut Production

World War I and World War II led to an increase in United States peanut production

- Europe's production declined
- Great energy source
- Easily packaged & transported
Peanut Products

- Roasted Nuts
- Raw Peanuts
- Cosmetics
- Peanut butter
- Deserts
- Candies
- Peanut Hay
- Peanut Oil
- Meal Feed
Making Peanut Butter

1) Harvesting
2) Shelling & Processing
3) Dry Roasting
4) Cooling
5) Blanching
6) Grinding
7) Packaging

www.madehow.com/Volume-1/Peanut-Butter.html
Peanut Oil – Viable Fuel Alternative?

• Peanut oil has approximately 132,817 BTUs per gallon
• No. 2 diesel fuel has 140,000 BTUs per gallon
• Very good supplement and substitute

• 32 oz container of Peanut Oil costs $4.39 at Big Y
• Diesel currently costs around $2.45 per gallon