



# Texas AgriLife Extension TEXAS PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



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**This newsletter is being supported by your TEXAS PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**  
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Anyone wanting this newsletter by email please send me a note at the above address and I'll put you on the list. If anyone has had an address change from a rural route box number to a 911 address please let me know so I can make the change. Also, if you change email servers you will need to let me know.

### GENERAL

HOT and DRY !! – same song, different verse or rather month. I have visited with several producers that have said they turned on their irrigation in April and have not turned it off since. As for the crop, I still see only a light/fair crop overall. Some orchards have some varieties with a good crop while other varieties in the same orchard are very weak. Hopefully that in spite of the drought with the light crop the quality will be good at harvest.

### TEXAS PECAN GROWERS CONFERENCE

The TPGA conference will be starting Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> and will run through Wed July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in Frisco, TX. During the conference I will have an exhibit booth in the exhibit hall so during the break please come by for a visit.

### TPGA CONFERENCE CEU's

During the TPGA conference CEU's will be

offered Monday morning during the short course and for the Tuesday morning session. Sign in sheets will be in the back of the room as usual. You will need your pesticide license number to get credit.

### INSECTS

**Black Aphids:** My usual time for recommending applications for BPA is around mid-July but a few producers have made applications during June. Although activity (blotches on leaflets) can be observed during May and June, I hesitate to treat this early for I have never observed defoliation during the early summer. I hear of producers in the SE treating during May and June but for Texas I don't want Texas producers to get into this situation so I feel we can wait.

Black pecan aphid infestations tend to start in shaded or crowded portions of an orchard and these infestations will start in the interior of the canopy. Watch for the yellow, angular or rectangle shaped blotches on the leaflets PLUS the presence of aphids when making treatment decisions. Black pecan aphids can be found on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces.

**Yellow aphids:** Blackmargined aphid activity has been really variable with some orchards being very clean and others dripping with honeydew. A good rain will help but if a treatment is needed treat only problem areas or varieties. In other words, do not treat the Pawnee and Cheyenne cultivars the same.

During 2010 the pecan IPM group and Dr. Juan Lopez, USDA-ARS Southern Plains Agricultural

Research Center, College Station, TX received funding from a EPA-PEST grant to look at blackmargined pecan aphid resistance to imidacloprid. The project started this spring and will last for 2 years. From preliminary lab tests conducted in 2010 and lab tests this year we have found BMA from some orchards that have survived for 72 hours at the highest labeled foliage rate (7 oz/A) which indicates there are some problems.

Imidacloprid is classed as a 4A insecticide by the IRAC (Insecticide Resistance Action Committee) <http://www.irc-online.org> and therefore any other insecticide with a 4A classification will have the same mode of action. Other active ingredients in this 4A Neonicotinoid class are: Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Nitenpyram, Thiacloprid, Thiamethoxam,

At this time my recommendation for controlling difficult populations, if control is really needed is to not treat the entire orchard which would leave some non-exposed aphids and to rotate to a product with a different mode of action and class. One example is the active ingredient Pymetrozine which is a class 9B.

If anyone has had problems controlling BMA with imidacloprid I would like to hear from you.

#### **Stink bugs/ Leaffooted bugs:**

During this time of year stink bugs and leaffooted bugs are found mostly on other crops and weeds rather than pecans and so far I have seen very few on my monitoring weeds and in my garden. The low number might be due to the cold winter and dry spring. However, these insects are still out there and producers will need to pay attention to surrounding agricultural activities such as harvesting of row crops and shredding weedy pastures will cause adults to move into orchards

#### **HAVE YOU SEEN ME???**

##### **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug:**

The brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål), which is native to Asia – China, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan, is an invasive stink bug that was first identified in 2000 in Allentown, PA and it is thought that it was introduced to this area around 1996. From this

initial detection site the BMSB has now been detected in 33 states. So far this stink bug has not been detected in Texas and I don't think it is a question of if it will get to the Lone Star State but rather when. The closest states to Texas with known detections are Arizona, Mississippi and Nebraska. This insect is very good at hitching rides on RV's, campers and other forms of transportation so it will be here soon.

This stink bug is polyphagous with a very broad host range and in the Mid-Atlantic States the BMSB insect has become a serious pest of small fruits, vegetables, ornamentals and row crops (soybeans). In addition this stink bug has become a serious household pest where adults are seeking out overwintering sites in homes during the fall. With the initial infestation sites (Mid - Atlantic States) being in non-pecan production areas we are not sure what the impact on pecan will be. The purpose of this note is to make producers aware of the pest and request that if any specimens are observed to please collect and report to your county Extension agent or contact me directly.

There are several similar looking native stink bug species in Texas, such as the brown stink bug and *Brochymena* sp. so there will be some confusion. One key visual character to ID this species are the white bands on the antenna of the adult and the antenna and legs of the immature stages as shown in the attached pictures.

For additional information on this pest check out: <http://northeastipm.org/bmsb>

##### **Walnut caterpillar and Fall webworm:**

So far I have not seen nor received any reports of walnut caterpillar activity. A characteristic sign of a walnut caterpillar infestation will be branch terminal with missing foliage but leaf petioles still present. Fall webworms also seem to be scarce – at this time

##### **WILDLIFE MANAGMEENT:**

**Squirrels:** Folks that do not raise pecans consider squirrels cute and know that they will eat pecans. But on the other hand, pecan growers consider them a nuisance and a serious pest. The first thought about squirrels and pecans is crop loss, but as I have experienced lately, one major problem is

stripping the bark on branches and killing grafts.



Efforts for squirrel management can be directed through: exclusion, trapping and hunting. Exclusion can be accomplished through cutting back limbs and /or placing metal bands around tree trunks. Limbs should be cut back at least 8 10 feet from other trees and bands should be at least 2 feet in length and 6 to 8 feet from the ground.

Squirrels are considered game animals so all hunting will need to be in accordance with your local state game laws.

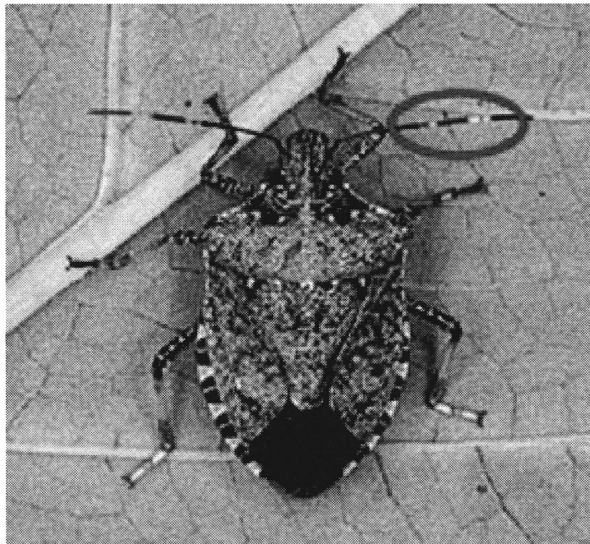


Figure 1. Adult BMSB. Photo credit: Rutgers Univ.



Figure 2. 4th instar. Photo credit: Rutgers Univ.

**MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL EVENTS**

**The following are county/state meetings I'm aware of at this time:**

**State Meetings**

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**July 10-13, 2011**

**Texas Pecan Growers Annual Conference and Trade show**

**Frisco, TX**

**Contact: TPGA @ 979-846-3285**

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**September 14 – 15, 2011**

**Alabama Pecan Growers annual meeting  
Fairhope, AL**

**September 16, 2011**

**Arizona Pecan Growers annual meeting  
Palo Verde Holiday Inn**

**Tucson, AZ**

**Contact: Mike Kilby @ 520-403-4613**

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