



Texas AgriLife Extension TEXAS PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



Improving Lives. Improving Texas

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LAST IPM NEWSLETTER FOR 2011 AND LAST HARD COPY LETTER

Due to funding concerns and in an effort to provide a quicker turnaround of information, this will be the last year that a printed copy of this newsletter will be provided. Starting next March the Texas Pecan IPM Newsletter will be provided only in electronic form, either by direct email and posted on the <http://pecan.ipmPIPE.org> website.

GENERAL

Harvest is well underway and prices are still very good. With the drought wildlife pressure on the crop has been very intense and I can speak on that from my own experience. The National Pecan Shellers Association has predicted a 38.0 million pound crop for Texas while the estimate at the Alabama Pecan meeting was 37.5 million pounds.

PECAN MARKET NEWSLETTER

The Texas Pecan Growers Association provides a market newsletter on harvest situations across the pecan belt and an update on prices. The newsletter will run through January and a subscription is \$85 by email or \$95 for a hard copy. To subscribe contact the TPGA office at the address or phone number listed above.

The following is an excerpt from the Oct. 7th letter:

MARKET AND PRICES

“Terrific pricing and buying interest in all markets” reports one Southeast grower. Growers in the Southeast, parts of Texas and other early harvesting areas have seen record prices and record demand.

Buying interest and contracts have been getting started earlier this year as well. One grower says that “buyers call on a daily basis to find out the progression of the crop, which is early for this many to be calling at this time.” Several growers report having early contracts with excellent pricing. The contracts were settled far earlier than they have ever seen and with higher prices.

In Georgia, the USDA reports that ‘Pawnee’ in lots under 20,000 pounds with 55 to 58 percent yield sold between \$5.78 to \$6.47 per point. Lots of ‘Pawnee’ larger than 20,000 pounds with yields of 57 to 59 percent sold between \$5.92 to \$6.19 per point. In Texas, growers still report pecans selling between \$3.00 to \$3.50 per pound inshell and around \$6.00 per point otherwise.

The record high prices have some wondering if there is some kind of price ceiling or will pecans remain in this high market. It also has them wondering whether contracts will be made earlier and earlier, in hopes of buyers firming up their supply? Or will it become more of a wild west spot market, where growers can play the market and still earn high prices? Either way, judging by the phone calls to our office, the market and pricing have increased the amount of people trying to get into or showing interest in the pecan industry.

In the West, growers are receiving some interest, but expect that their market will really get

rolling later in the season. "So far I haven't seen much movement in the way of buyers. I expect that will change once we pass mid November."

NEW USDA CULTIVAR RELEASE

'Lipan' pecan: 'Lipan' is a new pecan [*Carya illinoensis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch] variety released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The Lipan are a Native American Apache tribe. During various periods of the 18th and 19th centuries they roamed from the lower Rio Grande in New Mexico and Mexico eastward through Texas to the Gulf coast. The name has probably been employed to include other Apache groups of the southern plains, such as the Mescaleros and the Kiowa Apache. 'Lipan' was released because of its high nut quality, high yield potential, medium early nut maturity, and scab disease (*Fusicladium effusum* G. Winter) resistance. 'Lipan' should be adapted to all pecan growing areas of the world except the extreme northern production area of the U.S. Pecans from this variety can be sold in-shell or shelled to produce a large proportion of halves and large pieces.

Origin

USDA conducts the only national pecan breeding program. Crosses are made at Brownwood and College Station, Texas (Grauke and Thompson, 1996; Thompson and Grauke, 1991; Thompson and Young, 1985). Seedling clones are established on their own roots or budded to pollarded trees for the initial 12-year testing phase at College Station. Superior clones then enter NPACTS (National Pecan Advanced Clone Testing System), where they are tested across the U.S. pecan belt in cooperation with federal and state researchers and private growers. After several years, the best clones are given Native American tribe names and released to nurseries for propagation to sell to growers. USDA pecan varieties are not patented, and after release, growers can propagate the new varieties as much as desired.

'Lipan', tested as selection 1986-3-624, is a progeny from a cross between the 'Cheyenne' and 'Pawnee' varieties made by T. E. Thompson at Brownwood, Texas in 1986. 'Cheyenne' is a USDA variety released in 1970 and originated from a cross of the 'Clark' and 'Odom' varieties

(Madden, 1969). 'Clark' is a native pecan from San Saba County, Texas. 'Odom' is a seedling from Ocean Springs (Newton County), Mississippi. It may be a seedling of the 'Russell' variety (Thompson and Young, 1985). 'Pawnee' is also a USDA variety released in 1984 (Thompson and Hunter, 1985). It is from the cross 'Mohawk' and 'Starking Hardy Giant'. Mohawk is a USDA variety released in 1965 from a cross of the 'Success' and 'Mahan' varieties (Thompson and Young, 1985). 'Success' originated in 1903 in Jackson County, Mississippi, and 'Mahan' originated in Attala County, Mississippi. 'Mahan' is a parent of six of the 29 released USDA varieties, and 'Success' is a parent of four of these varieties. Starking Hardy Giant is a native variety from Carroll Co., northern Missouri.

Description

The 'Lipan' clone was initially grown and evaluated on its own roots at College Station, Texas. On the basis of preliminary performance, extensive testing was started in April, 1996 by grafting an NPACTS yield and performance test at Brownwood, Texas. This test had eight replications (single-tree), with a tree spacing of 30 X 35 ft.. Yield data indicate that 'Lipan' has adequate precocity, similar to 'Pawnee'. 'Lipan' produced about 154 pounds of nuts per tree, compared to 160 for 'Pawnee', and 146 for 'Desirable'. When considering total kernel produced per tree over the life of the test, 'Lipan' produced 84 pounds and 'Pawnee' produced about 92 pounds, compared to 75 for 'Desirable'. Nuts per cluster was 2.5 for 'Lipan', 3.3 for 'Pawnee' and 2.2 for 'Wichita'. The alternate bearing tendency of 'Lipan' appears less than 'Pawnee', 'Desirable' and 'Wichita'. As with most varieties, fruit thinning of 'Lipan' in mid-summer may be needed in some years. Average nuts per pound is about 44 for 'Lipan', compared to 51 for 'Pawnee', 47 for 'Desirable', and 58 for 'Wichita'. Nuts shell out about 55 % kernel. Kernels are cream to golden in color, with open, non-trapping dorsal grooves and a rounded dorsal ridge. The nut is elliptic with a slightly pointed apex and rounded base and is round in cross section. The shell suture is very strong, and should be very resistant to splitting if harvest is delayed. 'Lipan' has proven to be a consistent producer of high quality nuts that mature and are ready to harvest about two weeks after the early-maturing Pawnee'

variety and about two weeks before 'Desirable' (about Oct. 4 at Brownwood). Time of spring budbreak is midseason (similar to 'Pawnee' and 'Desirable'). 'Lipan' is protandrous, with early pollen shed and mid-season pistil receptivity, similar to 'Creek' and 'Cheyenne'; and later than 'Caddo'. 'Lipan' should be a good pollenizer for, and well pollenized by 'Choctaw', 'Kanza', and 'Wichita'. Preliminary data shows that 'Lipan' is very resistant to scab disease, and has medium susceptibility to yellow and black aphids.

Availability: 'Lipan' was released on July 22, 2011. As stated above, 'Lipan' is not patented and can be grafted and budded as much as desired by anyone. Graftwood will be supplied to nurserymen in late winter of 2012. The USDA does not have any trees for distribution. Genetic material of this release will be deposited in the National Plant Germplasm System where it will be available for research purposes, including development and commercialization of new varieties. It is requested that appropriate recognition be made if this germplasm contributes to the development of a new variety.

INSECTS

Pecan weevil: With this year's drought there will be some delayed emergence of adult pecan weevils. The recent rain, depending on amount and soil type could have released some adults. Pecans are susceptible up to shuck split. If grubs are observed emerging from pecans during harvest you can look back approximately 42 days to get an estimate when the eggs were laid.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug: I mentioned this stink bug in the 4th newsletter but need to mention it one more time. 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. 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: <http://northeastipm.org/bmsb>

MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

State Meetings

February 24 – 25, 2012

Southeastern Pecan Conference
Grand Hotel Marriott Resort
Point Clear, AL

Contact: Will Easterlin @
willeasterlin@windstream.net

March 4 – 6, 2012

Western Pecan Conference
Las Cruces, NM

Contact: Olivia Carver @ oliviakcarver@aol.com

March 29, 2012

Georgia Pecan Growers Conference
Georgia National Fairgrounds
Perry, GA

July 15 – 18, 2012

Texas Pecan Growers Conference
Embassy Suites, San Marcos, TX

Contact: TPGA office @ 979-846-3285

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