



Texas AgriLife Extension TEXAS PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

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GENERAL

Well what can I say, it is not hot and dry, it is hotter and drier with no relief in sight. Irrigations are going a full speed and there are reports of wells losing capacity. I've seen a few orchards with surprisingly good crops, other orchards with one or two varieties that are on but over all I see just a fair crop.

2011 TPGA CONFERENCE

Thanks Cindy, Blair and Evelyn for organizing another great TPGA conference. The 2012 TPGA conference will be back at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in San Marcos, TX and in 2013 we will be in College Station, TX.

HEAT RELATED ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS

We have all heard the warning about getting over heated and in a summer like this we need to take heat related illnesses seriously. For additional information and suggestions for preventing heat

related illnesses check out the OSHA web site:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/index.html>
 Make sure that anyone working outside has plenty of water, scheduled rest periods and be familiar with the early signs of heat related illnesses and know what to do in case of an emergency. Heat related illnesses can be fatal if not treated.

CROP ESTIMATES FROM 2011 TPGA CONFERENCE:

	<u>Million lbs</u>	
	<u>Pape</u>	<u>Brookshier</u>
Alabama	8.0	7.0
Arkansas	4.0	2.0
Arizona	19.0	20.0
California	4.0	4.0
Florida	1.5	2.2
Georgia	90.0	84.0
Kansas	5.0	2.0
Louisiana	9.0	7.5
Mississippi	2.5	1.5
Missouri	w/KS	1.2
New Mexico	55.0	63.0
North Carolina	1.0	-----
Oklahoma	19.0	16.0
South Carolina	3.0	2.1
Texas	40.0	40.0
US Total	261.0	252.2

INSECTS

Black Aphids: I have observed a few outbreaks of black pecan aphids that required treatments during late July. Applications of dimethoate at 1 pint/A provided very good control for all situations. Black pecan aphids can be a problem during August and September so continue to watch for

the characteristic angular yellow blotches in the interior portion of the canopy or in crowded sections of an orchard with BPA present



Figure 1 Black pecan aphid nymphs with characteristic yellow blotching starting to appear

Yellow aphids: Blackmargined pecan aphid populations have been extremely variable across the state. When it comes to yellow aphid management do not treat the entire orchard the same, i.e. don't treat Pawnees and Cheyenne the same. If you are having poor control with a product, for example imidacloprid based product which is a group 4A switch to another group classification such as a group 9B pymetrozine (Fulfill) or group 23 spirotetramat (Movento)

Stink bugs/ Leaffooted bugs: Very few stink bugs are being observed on my usual scout weeds and very few are being collected in USDA-ARS black light traps in the Brazos Valley. As row crops are being harvested and with weeds drying up watch boarder row trees for adult stink bugs that could start to move into orchards. If stink bug management is required producers will need to use a pyrethroid based product. I have had very poor results when testing organophosphate compounds against stink bug species. Stink bugs can and will feed on pecans up to the time of harvest.

Walnut caterpillar and Fall webworm: I have been completely amazed at the lack of fall webworm activity this year. I drove on Highway 77 from Highway 21 in Lee County all the way to Port Isabel, TS and did not see a single FFW web!!! I have not received any reports of walnut caterpillar activity so far this year.

Pecan weevil: This is a year when I highly recommend producers use adult emergence traps. There are three basic types of traps: wire cone, Circle and the pyramid or Tedders trap. Each of these have their strong and weak points.

Wire cone traps: they are expensive to make, require some effort to put out and cannot be used with grazing livestock. On the plus side with some care and can last for many years.

Circle trap: I feel that Circle traps work best on trees with a straight trunk and first braches around 8 feet. Circle traps can be purchased or easily made. Since these traps are placed on the tree they can be used with grazing livestock

Pyramid or Tedders trap: These traps work on a visual preference so the tree trunks near the trap should be white washed or painted a light color and the traps painted a dark gray or black. This trap is easy to make and relatively inexpensive with 3 and a half traps coming from a 4 X 8 sheet of plywood. The traps are easy to set up and store but they will not mix with grazing livestock.

Regardless of which trap is being used, traps should be placed under or on trees which are on different soil types. Adult emergence will be different from sandy or light textured soils than on heavier clay soils and traps need to reflect this difference.

The first pecan weevil application should be made at the time of late gel formation which will be coming up soon on the early maturing varieties. In older Extension publications it was suggested that the first application be applied around August 20 – 22nd. However, with several early maturing cultivars being planted this stage will be occurring much sooner. Producers need to cut pecans of their earliest maturing varieties to determine stage of kernel development.

For additional information on pecan weevils check out the Insect Monitoring and Control link in the Tool Box section of: <http://pecan.ipmpipe.org>

Hickory shuckworm: Treatments for hickory shuckworm should be going out at this time. Treatments for HSW are based on the fact that

there was a problem the year before and timing is based on the nut development stage of half shell hardening. I have had good results with one application with the softer growth regulating compounds such as Confirm, Intrepid and Altacor

2011 STATE PECAN SHOW RESULTS

Commercial division – Grand Champion

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Nuts/lb</u>	<u>%K</u>
Olan Tisdale	Hopi	44.96	61.60

Commercial Division – Reserve grand champion

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Nuts/lb</u>	<u>%K</u>
Olivia Mize	Schley	50.46	61.80

Classic and New Division – Grand Champion

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Nuts/Lb</u>	<u>%K</u>
James Welch	Prilop	71.77	57.80

Classic and New Division – Reserve Champion

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Nuts/Lb</u>	<u>%K</u>
Texican Pecan Co.	Elliott	56.84	54.60

Native Division – Grand Champion

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Nuts/Lb</u>	<u>%K</u>
Lois Luedeker	74.36	62.80

Native Division – Reserve Champion

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Nuts/lb</u>	<u>%K</u>
Janell Felton	56.42	53.60

DEFINITIONS

You might think that having a definition for an orchard to be sort of pointless but there are some pesticides, for example, baits for leaf-cutter ant mounds that cannot be applied in an orchard. So where does your orchard end?

Also, if the trees are spaced far apart or are young, we interpret that the strips or areas between the trees still constitute the orchard.

The following definitions have been provided by the Texas Department of Agriculture and approved by EPA. Thanks Dr. Bart Drees for pursuing this issue and to Ed Gage with the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Orchard - (or grove). A grouping of trees or shrubs arranged in rows to facilitate production efforts; or, a randomly spaced group of trees or

shrubs of usually native origin. The boundaries of which extend to the outside perimeter of the drip line of the canopy on all sides of the area or the group.

Field - An area of land with or without a crop, defined on all sides by a change of vegetation type or by a man made or artificial structure (fence), natural barrier or road.

Baited trap - A container in which an insecticidal bait is placed with the intent to attract pest species to feed and trap them within the trap or contain the pest or allow the pest to exit but prevent off target species to have access to the bait or provide protection to humans and pets.

MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

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

Texas County meetings

August 9, 2011

Comanche County Late Season Field Day
Comanche, TX
Contact: Comanche County Extension office
325-356-2539

August 16, 2011

San Saba Pecan Weevil meeting
San Saba, TX
Contact: 325-372-5416

State Meetings

September 14 – 15, 2011

Alabama Pecan Growers annual meeting
Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center
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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