



Agricultural Experiment Station  
Pecan Research-Extension Station  
10300 Harts Island Road (71115)  
Post Office Box 5519  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71135-5519  
(318)797-8034  
Fax: (318)676-7371  
Web Site: [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)



# IN A NUTSHELL

Newsletter

EXTENSION PROGRAMS  
Agriculture and Forestry  
Community Leadership  
Economic Development  
Environmental Sciences  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Natural Resources

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## Disaster Assistance

Pecan Growers that may have had significant damage from the hurricane Gustav should contact their local Louisiana Farm Service Agency (FSA) office immediately if they have not signed up for the **non-insured crop disaster Assistance (NAP) program**. Growers must have NAP coverage to be eligible for **Supplemental Revenue Assistance payments (SURE) program** or **Tree Assistance (TAP) Program**. What this means is that pecan producers, who do not have NAP coverage need to visit their local FSA office to get the "buy-in" waiver to participate in the disaster program. The buy-in fee for 2008 NAP is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county.

**The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008. Those who miss this opportunity will not be eligible for disaster assistance.**

A 2008 Disaster Assistance newsletter written by Dr Kurt Guidry from LSU AgCenter is attached.

## Insects

Several reports of **black pecan aphids** were received this week. These insects produce bright yellow spots on pecan leaves and can cause severe defoliation. Dr. Mike Hall, entomologist at the Pecan Research-Extension Station recommends treatment when black aphid counts average more than one aphid per compound leaf. Suggested insecticides for black aphids are Warrior at 2.56-5.12 fl. oz./acre, Centric 40WG at 2.5 oz./acre, Mustang Max at 3.2-4.0 fl. oz./acre, Imidan 70W at 2.0 lb./acre, fulfill at 4.0 oz./acre or Provado 1.6F at 8.0 fl. oz./acre.

**Stinkbugs and leaf-footed bugs** have been a problem on pecans for several years. These insects cause small black spots on the kernel of pecans. Suggested insecticides for stinkbugs and leaf-footed bugs are Warrior at 2.56-5.12 fl. oz./acre, PennCap-M at 2.0-8.0 pt./acre, Baythroid XL at 2.0-2.4 fl. oz./acre, Mustang Max at 3.2-4.0 fl. oz./acre or Ammo 2.5EC at 3.0-5.0 fl. oz./acre. Brown stinkbug is more difficult to control than green stinkbug and Leaf-footed bug. PennCap-M, Baythroid or Warrior should be used for brown stinkbug control.

**Hickory shuckworm** control can be economically beneficial until mid September on late maturing cultivars. Shuckworm can reduce nut filling by burrowing in the shuck of the pecan and can also cause the shuck to stick to the nut. Suggested insecticides for shuckworm include Confirm 2F at 8.0-16.0 fl. oz./acre, Lorsban 4E at 1.5-2.0 pt./acre, Warrior at 2.56-5.12 fl. oz./acre, Mustang Max at 3.2-4.0 fl. oz./acre, Imidan 70W at 2.0-3.0 lb./acre, PennCap-M at 2.0-8.0 pt./acre or Intrepid 2F at 4.0-8.0 fl. oz./acre.

**Pecan weevil** can be found in some Louisiana orchards. They are sometimes found on limited areas of an orchard. Pecan weevil can cause damage until shuck split. Signs of pecan weevil are mature nuts with round holes in the shell or nuts containing legless larvae. Suggested insecticides for weevils are Sevin 80S at 1.5-2.0 lb./acre or Sevin XLR Plus at 2 qts/acre.

### **Crop Stage**

Shuck split was seen on the Pawnee, an early cultivar, this week. The Candy cultivar should be reaching shuck split in about a week. Sumner, a late season cultivar, was in the gel stage.

### **Hurricane Damage**

Preliminary reports indicated that severity of crop and tree damage depended on location in the state. Some orchards in Northeast and Central areas of Louisiana reported severe flooding.

South central Louisiana had very severe damage to the pecan crop with over 50% of the nuts lost and a lot of large trees blown over. Surviving trees have severe limb damage.

Central areas reported nut loss of 15-50%. Some trees were blown over and a lot of limb damage occurred.

Northeast Louisiana reported nut loss of 10-30%. A few trees were blown over and considerable limb damage occurred in some orchards. Northeast growers reported rainfall of 11-20 inches.

Northwest Louisiana reported nut loss of less than 5%. Little tree damage occurred.

### **Survey**

A pecan damage survey is attached. Please complete and return by September 19. This will enable us to get a more complete picture of the damage caused by hurricane Gustav.

## Tree Care

Young trees planted within the past few years are often blown over by high winds or may be leaning. These trees which generally are less than 8 inches in diameter can generally be saved. Straighten them as soon as possible. Trees with a diameter of 10 inches or more are often too heavy to upright and usually do not survive.

Straighten trees will need to be supported with stakes or guy lines until they reestablish a strong new root system. Leave the support in place for 9-12 months. Limited pruning may be done at the time of resetting to remove damaged branches, but do not prune excessively.

After a storm, large branches that are broken but still hanging in the tree should be removed as soon as possible. These branches pose a significant risk, because they could fall at any time. Less critical are broken stubs, where branches were lost. These stubs eventually should be pruned off if feasible to allow the trees to heal over the wounds.

Make the final pruning cut just outside of the branch collar at the base of the branch when removing broken branches or stubs. Pruning paint is not needed or recommended.

Individuals and companies doing tree work should carry liability and workers' compensation insurance, and the state Department of Agriculture and Forestry recommends you ask to see proof of insurance before hiring an individual or company. You should also carefully supervise any tree work being done.

Sincerely,



John Pyzner  
Associate Professor, Pecan-Fruit Extension Specialist  
LSU Ag Center  
Pecan Research-Extension Station  
[jpyzner@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:jpyzner@agcenter.lsu.edu)



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