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# 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

November 24, 2008

Number 7

## **Pecan Crop**

The USDA October 2008 pecan crop estimate for the United States was 204.1 million pounds. This is a 181.2 million pound decrease (47%) from the 2007 crop of 385.3 million pounds. The predicted crop is 60.5 million pounds below (23%) the 10-year average of 264.6 million pounds.

USDA October estimate for Louisiana pecan crop is 7 million pounds which is half of the pre-hurricane Gustav prediction. Louisiana's 10-year pecan yield average is 14.5 million pounds. Preliminary yield reports from some pecan growers suggest that the crop loss from the hurricanes may be more than originally estimated.

## **Harvest**

Many growers are indicating they are near completion of harvest due to good harvesting weather and a light crop. Some growers have been slowed due to having to remove a lot of broken limbs before harvesting and by the large number of pecans blown out of the trees by the hurricanes that have to be removed during the cleaning process.

It is important to watch kernel moisture during harvest. Improper drying can cause discoloring of kernels and embryo rot. Pecans should be dried to 5 -6 percent moisture (or 4.5 - 3.0 % for long-term storage). Pecan buyers usually will buy pecans at 6% moisture. If the kernels from shelled samples do not break with a sharp snap when bent, the pecans are too moist for storage and require additional drying.

### **Pecan Prices**

The USDA marketing report for Louisiana on November 20 indicated that pecan deliveries by growers were light and demand was fairly good. The report indicated that Stuart deliveries 46% kernel were paying \$1.25 per pound for quantities of 10,000 pounds or less. Cape Fear at 50% meat yield was \$1.40 per pound. Machine harvested natives mostly 38-40% meat were 75-85 cents per pound. Yard tree lots of generally good quality were paying 60-70 cents for natives and 85-90 cents for Stuarts.

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service provides a free online market report for pecans in Georgia, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. The report is available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvwtvpcn.pdf>. Some of the price quotes may give prices per point. Points refer to percent shell-out for pecans. Pecans with a 48 percent shell-out selling at \$2.50 a point will bring \$1.20 per pound in-shell ( $2.50 \times 0.48 = 1.20$ ).

### **Disaster Assistance**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has not received the regulations for disaster assistance and will not be able to assist those that bought into non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) after the hurricane until they receive the regulations. Louisiana legislators are trying to get the programs finalized.

Those that bought their NAP coverage at the beginning of the season can receive assistance from the FSA office at this time.

### **2008-2009 Louisiana State Pecan Show**

This year's Louisiana State Pecan Show will be held in West Monroe during Ag Expo in the Ike Hamilton Center, January 16 - 17, 2009. The show will have high visibility at Ag Expo, which has an attendance of approximately 8,000. It is an excellent opportunity for promoting Louisiana pecans. A list of show participants selling pecans will be developed. The list will be available to indicate potential pecan sources to pecan buyers until January 2010. Growers are encouraged to participate in the show. Growers are also invited to share their knowledge with show visitors at Ag Expo.

The display and literature at the show will provide information about the health benefits of eating pecans. Non-dessert pecan recipes will be provided to pecan show attendees to encourage the healthy use of pecans in a person's diet.

Show variety winners will also be exhibited at the Pecan Producers and Pecan Growers annual conferences in June.

Requirements for entering the show, divisions of the show and suggestions on selecting and handling pecans for the show are included with this newsletter. The number of nuts per entry has been changed from 40 to 30 nuts this year. Yard tree growers as well as commercial growers are encouraged to participate with their pecans.

If additional show information is needed, please contact me at [jpyzner@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:jpyzner@agcenter.lsu.edu), (318)797-8034 or (318)537-0583.

**Newsletter**

Current and previous issues of “IN A Nutshell” newsletters are available on the LSU AgCenter Pecan Research-Extension Station website at:

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our\\_offices/research\\_stations/Pecan/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Pecan/). Click on “In a Nutshell Newsletter” in the features column for the newsletters.

Sincerely,

John Pyzner  
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## **REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING THE LOUISIANA STATE PECAN SHOW**

**Ag Expo in the Ike Hamilton Center in West Monroe, January 16 - 17, 2009**

1. Pecan entries must be turned in to John Pyzner at the Pecan Research-Extension Station, P.O. Box 5519, Shreveport, LA 71135. (mailing address) Physical address: 10300 Harts Island Road, Shreveport, LA 71115 (UPS and FedEx deliveries) by **January 9, 2009**.
2. Pecans must be of current year's crop.
3. Exhibitors must have grown their entries.
4. An entry must be **30** nuts.
5. An entry may come from one or more trees, but must be of one cultivar (a pecan tree that has been named and is commercially propagated - a cultivated variety).
6. An individual may enter as many different cultivars as he/she wishes.
7. Any individual may enter regardless of the number of producing trees he or she owns.
8. Individuals should know the name of the cultivars they are entering, or if they are hybrids or native.
9. An exhibitor may enter as many native pecan entries as he/she wishes; however, each tree can have only one entry, and each entry must be from an individual tree that is identified by a name, number or letter number combination of the owner's choosing; for example (DE23).

### **INFORMATION NEEDED FOR ENTRY**

1. Grower's name and address.
2. Parish where pecans grown.
3. Name of cultivar or name of parent cultivars and appropriate identification number for known hybrids or tree identification number for native.
4. Indicate if grower is retailing and/or wholesaling pecans. (This is for the list of pecan sources.)

**In-shell Cultivar** - A cultivar that has less than 55 nuts per pound listed in Division I. In-shell pecans are suitable for sale in the shell.

**Shelling Cultivar** - A cultivar that has more than 55 nuts per pound listed in Division II. Shelling pecans are suitable for sale as shelled pecans.

**Known Hybrid** - A hybrid pecan that has not been named, but for which both parents are known. This includes those pecans commonly referred to as "USDA Crosses." The parents and identification number must be listed on the entry card.

**Native** - All unnamed pecan trees that have at least one unknown parent. This division will include cultivar seedlings. The division will be divided into large natives (less than 60 nuts per pound), medium natives (60-100 nuts per pound) and small native (more than 100 nuts per pound).

## DIVISION OF CULTIVARS IN A PECAN SHOW

### DIVISION I

101 Barton  
201 Branch  
301 Cape Fear  
401 Centennial  
501 Choctaw  
601 Creek  
701 Desirable  
801 Forkert  
901 Gloria Grande  
1001 Jackson  
1101 Kiowa  
1201 Mahan  
1301 Maramec  
1401 Mohawk  
1501 Nacono  
1601 Ocone  
1701 Owens  
1801 Pawnee  
1901 PE-Cou-2  
2001 Podsednik  
2101 Schley  
2201 Shawnee  
2301 Shoshoni  
2401 Stuart  
2501 Success  
2601 Sumner  
2701 Wichita  
2801 Known Hybrids  
2901 Other In-shell Pecans

### DIVISION II

4101 Caddo  
4202 Candy  
4301 Caspiana  
4401 Cheyenne  
4501 Chickasaw  
4601 Curtis  
4701 Elliott  
4801 Farley  
4901 Gafford  
5001 Jennings  
5101 Jenkins  
5201 McMillan  
5301 Melrose  
5401 Moneymaker  
5501 Moreland  
5601 Moore  
5701 Pabst  
5801 Sioux  
5901 Syrup Mill  
6001 Van Deman  
6101 Known Hybrids  
6201 Other Shelling Pecans

### Division III

7101 Large Native  
7201 Medium Native  
7301 Small Native

\_\_\_\_ Largest Pecan Entry  
\_\_\_\_ Smallest Pecan Entry

## **SUGGESTIONS ON SELECTING AND HANDLING PECANS FOR SHOW**

1. Select nuts that are mature, uniform in size, color and representative of the cultivar.
2. Picking mature nuts from the tree may avoid soil and moisture discoloration.
3. Select nuts that are free of insect and disease damage.
4. Weighing or briefly floating nuts can help identify light and heavy nuts; however, wetting the nuts may cause discoloration of the shells and kernels. Spreading the nuts out on a paper towel to dry will reduce the chance of discoloration.
5. Nuts should be free of dirt, dust and shuck remnants; however, they should not be buffed or polished to where the shape and color markings are altered.
6. Nuts removed from the shucks too early may not be mature and may have white areas on the shells.
7. Select the largest nuts that are uniform in size.
8. Select the heaviest nuts for each entry.
9. After nuts have been selected, place them in a ventilated bag and store at room temperature.
10. The major criteria for judging pecans are:
  - A. Whole nuts
    1. Uniform in size and true to cultivar type.
    2. Free of defects.
    3. Appearance and shell color.
    4. Number of nuts per pound.
  - B. Kernel quality
    1. Percentage of kernel.
    2. Color (the lighter the better).
    3. General appearance (free from defects, insect and disease damage).
    4. Texture.