



Agricultural Experiment Station
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IN A NUTSHELL

Newsletter

EXTENSION PROGRAMS
Agriculture and Forestry
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May 3, 2007

Number 3

Casebearer

Dr. Michael Hall from the LSU AgCenter Pecan Research-Extension Station in Shreveport has reported that no pecan nut casebearer moths have been caught this year in pheromone traps located at the Pecan Station; however, there have been reports of casebearer being caught in orchards in Natchitoches and Red River parishes.

Nut casebearer moths are normally present in Louisiana the first 2 - 3 weeks of May. Northeast Louisiana has not had the nut casebearer problems that the rest of the state has had for over 25 years. However, two orchards in the Monroe area have had casebearer problems during the past 5-6 years. Casebearer moths have preferred the Desirable variety in these orchards. Last year an additional orchard in the Monroe area had casebearer damage for the first time in 25 years of scouting for this insect. Casebearer damage was also found in an orchard in the Tallulah area last year. Growers in northeast Louisiana should be watching for nut casebearer since it may be moving into northeast Louisiana.

Pheromone traps are a good method to detect the presence of nut casebearer moths.

Pheromone traps and pheromones for the traps can be obtained at the following sources:

Gemplers, 1-800-382-8473, www.gemplers.com ;

Pecan Producers Inc., 1-800-527-1825;

Great Lakes IPM, 1-800-235-0285, www.greatlakesipm.com .

Casebearer moths deposit eggs on the tip of the nutlet or just below the tip, and sometimes under the bracts (the leaf-like structures encircling the tip of the nutlet). The oval egg is white and then

turns pink just before hatching. Examining nut clusters for moth eggs can be used to detect egg deposition on the nutlets. Pictures of casebearer eggs and moths can be found on the Casebearer fact sheet on the Entomology page of the Pecan Station website:

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Pecan/Features/Entomology/Pecan+Nut+Casebearer.htm.

Need for control measures will depend on the severity of the infestation and the size of the nut crop. Pecan nut casebearer can provide a natural way to thin excessive nuts from trees in years with a heavy crop load. Control measures may be needed if the crop load is light or the infestation levels are high. Insecticide applications should be considered when infestation levels equal or exceed 5% of the terminals. Treatments are generally not warranted when infestations levels are below 5%, especially if the pecan crop is large.

Insecticide applications are generally made when most eggs have reached the pink stage or by the first sign of nut entry. Insecticides labeled for control of pecan nut casebearer include Imidan 70WSB, Lorsban 4E, Warrior, Mustang Max, Confirm 2F, Intrepid 2F, Spintor 2SC, Sevin, Demilin 2L, Javelin WG and Dipel ES. Using Confirm, Javelin, Intrepid, Dimilin, Spintor or Dipel may help prevent yellow aphid build up since these insecticides are easy on beneficial insects.

Pecan Phylloxera

Pecan phylloxera control has been variable this spring. Most growers have had successful control; however, some growers have reported excessive damage.

May Beetles

There have been several reports of defoliation of pecan trees due to May beetles this spring in northwest Louisiana. Most of these reports have been on young trees; however, one report was received of considerable damage to a small grove of large pecan trees.

Pecan Scab

Scab disease has been seen in some orchards. Most orchards are probably ready for their second fungicide application. Pecan leaves become resistant to scab disease once they reach maturity. The nutlets will start growing rapidly in June, at which time they will become more susceptible to scab disease. A fungicide spray program should be maintained on a 3 – 4 week interval as long as the nuts are growing rapidly. The longer spray interval should be used for drier periods and on less susceptible varieties. Recommended fungicides and their use rates were listed in the March 22 In A Nutshell.

Fertilization

Growers that are using split fertilizer applications should consider their crop size before making their second application in May. Some research studies indicate that skipping the second application of fertilizer when a very light crop is present may help reduce a very large crop the following year and thus reduce alternate bearing in future years.

Ammonium nitrate would be the preferred fertilizer for nitrogen in summer applications. Caution should be used if using urea. Urea loses nitrogen to the air very rapidly at high temperatures unless it is quickly washed into the soil by rain or irrigation.

Zinc deficiencies can be corrected with 2 - 3 foliar applications of 36% zinc sulfate at 4 - 5 lbs. per acre or NZN applied at 5 qts. per acre. Zinc is usually added to the early fungicide sprays. Foliar zinc applications should be made before leaves reach maturity. Very little zinc is absorbed through the leaves once they reach maturity. Dry zinc sulfate salt may be applied to the soil at 0.25 - 0.5 lbs. per inch of trunk diameter in acidic soils. Use the smaller amount on sandy soils. Applications of zinc salt to alkaline soils are not effective. Leaf zinc levels should be determined by foliar analysis in July to determine if pecan trees are obtaining adequate zinc.

Pecan Crop

The Pecan Station appears to have a large nut crop and nut thinning will probably be required for good quality nut production. Several pecan orchards in north and central Louisiana have reported a good female bloom.

Upcoming Events

June 6 – 7: Louisiana Pecan Growers Association 2007 Annual Conference and Trade Show.

June 6 – Field presentations and equipment demonstrations held at Company Farm Orchard, 563 Company Farm Rd, Baskin, LA. Buses will take participants from The Atrium Hotel, Monroe, LA to the Pecan Orchard with a stop at a Vineyard.

June 7 – Program will be held in The Atrium hotel, 2001 Louisville Av., Monroe, LA.

For additional information contact Susan Wilson at (318)932-8912 or rawilson@cp-tel.net .

June 21 – 22: Pecan Producers of Louisiana 2007 Convention and Trade Show.

June 21 – Field presentations and equipment demonstrations held at the LSU AgCenter Pecan Research-Extension Station, 10300 Harts Island Road, Shreveport, LA

June 22 – Program held in Clarion Hotel, 1419 E. 70th St., Shreveport, LA.

For additional information contact Stephen Norman (318)448-3139 or pecans@pecanproducers.org .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Pyzner". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

John Pyzner
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