



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



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

June 26, 2008

Number 4

Insects

High numbers of second generation **pecan casebearer** were caught in pheromone traps in one orchard in Ouachita parish this week. Casebearer moths were not found in traps in another orchard in Ouachita parish. Light catches of casebearer were found in traps in the Shreveport area. No moths were caught in pheromone traps in Red River or Natchitoches parishes.

Light to very light **shuckworm** drop was observed in orchards in Ouachita, Red River, Richland and Natchitoches parishes this week.

Low numbers of **nut curculio** have been caught in traps at the Pecan Research-Extension Station. Nut drop due to curculio have been very light to zero in orchards inspected this week.

Aphid and **mite** populations have been low to very low in orchards inspected.

Scab Control

The nuts of many cultivars are now entering their most rapid growth period of the season. In most years, this is late June through July. Nuts are most susceptible to infection by the pecan scab fungus during this period of rapid nut size increase. It is important to maintain a protective fungicide spray on pecan trees during this period. A 3 to 4 week application schedule is usually sufficient to maintain scab disease control. If an unusually wet July occurs similar to last summer it might be wise to shorten the spray interval to 2 to 3 weeks.

All of the recommended fungicides are effective in protecting against scab disease. However because two of the groups, the DMIs (Group 3) and the Strobilurins (Group 11), have a higher probability of selection for fungicide resistance, it may be best to use the groups with less

probability of resistance problems [Organotin (Group 30) or Dodine (Group M)], if there is a moderate to high level of scab already in your orchard. If your trees do not have a significant level of scab disease at this time any of the groups of fungicides would be suitable to use.

Randy Sanderlin, Plant Pathologist, LSU Pecan Research-Extension Station

Leaf Sampling

Pecan leaf analysis should be made in July. Collect the middle pair of leaflets from the middle leaf of the current season's growth. Take samples from shoots, which have terminated their growth for the season and have fully expanded leaves. Continue this procedure until 40 pairs of leaflets have been collected from at least 10 trees. This constitutes one sample. Select shoots that are fully exposed to the sun and near the ends of branches, not small branches growing from large limbs nor shaded branches near the center of the tree. Collect from all sides of the trees. Avoid taking leaflets damaged by insects, diseases or those that are otherwise contaminated. Leaflets in one sample should all be from one variety, but this is not essential.

Separate samples should be taken from different soil types or fertility management areas. Samples from trees that are dying or otherwise not typical of the average orchard tree should not be included with the regular samples. It is also advisable to keep samples from young non-bearing trees labeled separately from samples of older bearing trees. Avoid sampling leaves covered with dust such as those that occur near dirt roads, etc. If major rains have not followed last zinc application rinse the leaves in running water and wipe with damp cloth. Avoid rubber and galvanized containers when collecting leaves, since these could affect results.

Place the leaves in a new clean paper bag for air-drying in a dust-free area. Leave the bags open until leaves are dry. Leaves can also be dried in a kitchen oven overnight with the oven set on warm. Check with laboratory. Most laboratories prefer dry leaves. Some laboratories such as Texas A & M want fresh leaves to allow pre test washing of leaves.

Nutrients normally analyzed are: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium, Sulfur, Zinc, Iron, Manganese, Boron, Copper and Molybdenum. Local state university laboratories performing leaf analyses include:

Plant Analysis Laboratory
LSU Department of Agronomy
126 MB Sturgis Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-2111
(225) 578-1219

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/stpal/>

Agriculture Chemistry Laboratory
Agricultural Chemistry Room 102
LSU Highland Rd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
(225)342-5812
(Indicate "Pecan Plant Tissue Group" on Sample)

MSU Soil Testing & Plant Analysis Laboratory
Box 9610
Mississippi State, MS 39762
(662)325-3313

Samples can be sent directly to the laboratory and the results of the nutrient analysis will be returned directly to the grower with an adequate, deficient, or excessive rating given to each nutrient. If you have questions on the results you can contact your County Agent.

Pecan Estimates

The Louisiana Pecan Growers Association had a 2008 pecan crop estimate at their Annual Conferences in June. The Pecan Growers' estimate on June 14 was 16 million pounds for Louisiana, 1.5 million for Mississippi, 2 million for Arkansas and 215.5 million pounds for the United States. The United States' ten year pecan production average is 255 million pounds. The nations' pecan crop has ranged from a high of 406 million pounds to a low of 146 million during the past 10 years. The predicted crop is approximately 40 million pounds below average. Louisiana's predicted pecan crop is 2 million pounds above the state average of 14 million pounds.

The expected below average 2008 pecan crop and reported purchases of pecans by China and India should make 2008 pecan prices better than last year's prices.

Upcoming Events

July 24 – 25: 2008 Tri-State Pecan Trade Show & Convention, Vicksburg Convention Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi; Co-sponsored by Pecan Producers of Louisiana, Mississippi Pecan Growers Association and Arkansas Pecan Growers Association. Mississippi Pecan Growers Association has established reduced rates for conference attendees at the Horizon Casino Hotel, 601-636-3423.

July 24 – Registration begins – Exhibits open at 10:00 a.m. Conference begins at 11:00 a.m. Activities include lunch, Exhibitors' Demonstrations & Presentations and State Business Meetings.

July 25 – Conference begins at 8:00 a.m. Presentations included in day’s activities are “Clover 101” by Bill Goff; “Growing Legumes under Pecan Trees: *Durana* Clover” by John Carpenter; “Pecan Irrigation” by Crash Carruthers; “Scab 101” by Randy Sanderlin; “Micropropagation of Pecan” by Samy Manoharan; “Pecan Culture Management Research” by Charlie Graham; “Pecan Money, Labor, Equipment, Harvest, & Sales: It’s Not What We Know, But What We Can Do” by George Ray McEachern and “2008 Pecan Guesstimate” by Ben Littlepage.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Pyzner". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature is a vertical red line.

John Pyzner
Associate Professor, Pecan-Fruit Extension Specialist
LSU Ag Center
Pecan Research-Extension Station
jpyzner@agcenter.lsu.edu



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.