



Agricultural Experiment Station
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IN A NUTSHELL

Newsletter

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

July 27, 2006

Number 5

2006 PECAN ESTIMATES

The Pecan Producers of Louisiana and the Louisiana Pecan Growers Association had 2006 pecan crop estimates at their Annual Conferences in June. The Pecan Growers' estimate on June 16 was 15 million pounds for Louisiana and 169 million pounds for the United States. The Pecan Producers' estimate on June 30 was 19 million for Louisiana and 159 million for the U.S. Louisiana's ten year crop average is 13.8 million pounds. United States' ten year pecan production average is 256.6 million pounds. This year's national pecan crop estimate is for the smallest crop since 1998's 146.4 million pounds. United States has only had two pecan crops below 170 million pounds from 1979 thru 2005.

Based on the early crop predictions, Louisiana's crop is above average while the national crop is expected to have an unusually small crop. Louisiana producers will likely receive good prices for their crop this year since the national crop is expected to be off approximately 35%.

SOME THOUGHTS ON STINKBUG CONTROL

Stink bugs are a late season pest problem for pecan growers throughout Louisiana. Common host plant species for stink bugs include corn, cotton, soybeans, and a myriad of weed species. Although they don't reproduce and develop on pecan, stink bugs do feed on the nuts, even after shuck split. Briefly, the two types of feeding damage caused by stink bugs are nut abortion which occurs when the nut is punctured while still in the water stage, and kernel spots, which occur after the shell has hardened and the kernel has solidified. It is the later type of damage that causes the most problems for growers. Generally stink bugs are not a problem in pecan orchards until after the preferred plant species (corn, cotton, soybeans, and various weed hosts) no longer serve as a suitable host. It is then that the insects move into the trees and, being seed feeders, actively seek out the nuts to feed on.

Control of this insect is somewhat difficult due to the fact that it is hard to determine their presence in the tree canopies, they can be active for extended periods of time, and there are no treatment thresholds. This makes it difficult not only to determine when to spray, but to also determine how many insecticide applications may be needed.

Suggested insecticides to use for stink bug control include PennCap-M (encapsulated methyl parathion), Ammo 2.5EC, Warrior, and Mustang Max. All but PennCap-M (encapsulated methyl parathion) are pyrethroids. PennCap-M is very effective in controlling southern green stink bug, brown stink bug, and the leaf-footed bug. At the high rates, Warrior (5 fl.oz./acre) and Mustang Max (4 fl.oz./acre) are also relatively effective against all three. Other insecticides labeled for stink bug control include Imidan 70W, Sevin 80S and Sevin XLR. These insecticides will also control hickory shuckworm, so if stink bugs are a problem, one of these insecticides could be used to control stink bugs along with hickory shuckworm. If stink bugs are not a problem, an insecticide such as Confirm 2F or Intrepid 2F could be used for shuckworm control. Be aware that regular methyl parathion is not labeled for use on pecan. Also, it has little or no residual effect.

With any insecticide, be sure to check the label for re-entry and pre-harvest intervals, and also any grazing restrictions. The pH of the water being used for spraying should be between 5.5 and 6.5 to assure optimum efficacy of the insecticide being used. Use of a buffering agent will help maintain the desired pH once pesticides have been added to a solution. For further information contact Michael Hall at 318-797-8034, ext.2320, or by e-mail at mhall@agctr.lsu.edu.

GENERAL INSECT

Nut drop from curculio, shuckworm and casebearer has been light to moderate in the Shreveport area. The next shuckworm emergence is expected around mid August. Yellow aphid control is suggested when aphid numbers reach 20 per compound leaf. Provado 1.6F at 4–7 fl. ozs/acre is suggested. The rate should be increased to 7-14 fl. ozs/acre if black aphids are present. Treatment for black aphids is suggested if an average of one black aphid per compound leaf is present.

CROW CONTROL

I am resending a crow control survey for Louisiana pecan growers to determine the need and interest of developing a crow control program using toxicant DRC-1339. There was a very low return of surveys sent out earlier this year. The cost of the program would probably be \$300 to \$400 per participant depending on the number and location of participants. The program requires a LA –USDA Wildlife Service person to apply the treated bait to bait stations. The cost of the program will include the cost of the toxicant and time and travel of wildlife personnel to bait stations. Growers will have the cost and time of building bait stations and monitoring the stations for crow activity.

A crow program will not be available this year. The results of the new survey is to determine if there is enough interest in the program to have the toxicant labeled in Louisiana and to develop the details and cost of a crow control program.

The crow survey is being resent due to the amount of interest in crow control expressed at the pecan grower conventions in June. Please return surveys by August 31, 2006. Surveys not returned will be listed as not interested in crow control program.

Mississippi pecan growers with crow problems should contact Kris Godwin, Mississippi-USDA State Director for Wildlife Services at (662)325-3014. The crow toxicant DRC-1339 has been labeled for use in Mississippi and arrangement for use has to be made with Kris Godwin.

PECAN SCAB

Pecan scab has generally been light due to unusually dry conditions this year. Pecan nuts are susceptible to scab as long as they are growing. Most varieties examined at Shreveport showed very little shell hardening and had the potential for a lot of growth in August. Candy nuts examined were around $\frac{3}{4}$ shell hardening and were nearing full size.

Nuts of most pecan varieties remain susceptible to scab disease until near the end of August. It is usually best to protect orchards which have a significant level of scab disease already present or have highly scab susceptible varieties with fungicide through August. A fungicide spray applied in late July or early August will generally control scab to the end of the August. Orchards without scab disease present now will likely not need additional fungicide applications this year unless a series of rain events occurs within the next couple of weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3: Pecan Clinic. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, 7200 Desiard St, Monroe, La. Topics presented by Pecan Research-Extension Station Personnel will include: Stink bug and Shuckworm Control; Nut Thinning on Pecan Trees; Pecan Tree Thinning and Late Season Scab Control. For additional information contact John Pyzner at (318) 797-8034 or jpyzner@agcenter.lsu.edu.

August 5: Arkansas Pecan Growers Association First Meeting. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Robert Carruthers Orchard in Morrilton, AR. Contact Elena Garcia for details, Ph. (479) 575-2790 or megarcia@uak.edu.

September 14: Pecan Research-Extension Field Day. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 10300 Harts Island Road, Shreveport, LA. Located 6 miles south of LSU Shreveport just west of Hwy 1. Watch for Pecan Station Sign and the blue and white Shreveport/Bossier Port Water Tower near the station. For additional information contact the pecan station at (318) 797-8034.

Sincerely,



John Pyzner
Associate Professor, Pecan-Fruit Extension Specialist
jpyzner@agcenter.lsu.edu



PECAN CROW MANAGEMENT SURVEY

Please Return: August 31, 2006

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Fax # (318) 676-7371

- 1) Parish or Parishes where orchard(s) are located: _____
- 2) Total number of acres in production (natives and improved): _____
- 3) Are crows a problem in your orchard? Yes _____ No _____
- 4) Estimated annual pecan loss from crows:
 - a. Direct crop loss \$ _____
 - b. Management costs (example: cost of propane, shotgun shell, etc.) \$ _____
- 5) Type of crow management you currently use (check all that apply)
 - a. _____ Propane cannons
 - b. _____ Scare crows
 - c. _____ Cracker shells
 - d. _____ Live shooting
 - e. _____ Kites, eye balloons, noise makers, etc.
 - f. _____ Other: _____
 - g. _____ No management actions taken
- 6) Are you interested in using the Crow toxicant DRC-1339 in your management program. (See Pecan South, March 2003, pp16 for information on DRC-1339)
Yes _____ No _____
- 7) Name _____ Telephone # _____
Address _____

- 8) Comments: