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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

May 9, 2008

Number 3

Nut Casebearer

Pecan nut casebearer are being caught in pheromone traps this week in Louisiana. The catch numbers vary with orchards. Very high casebearer numbers were caught in traps in orchards in Alexandria, Monroe and Cloutierville areas. Trap catches were light in other orchards in Monroe and Cloutierville, Shreveport and Coushatta areas. Two orchards with high case bearer moth numbers had casebearers last season.

Casebearer moths normally begin mating about three days after emergence. The eggs hatch 3 – 5 days after being deposited. The eggs are initially white but turn pink just prior to hatching. Normally, treatment applications are made between May 8 and May 15. This can vary depending on location and weather.

Before using insecticides, determine if pecan nut casebearers are present in the orchard and, if present, the severity of the infestation. This can be done using pecan nut casebearer pheromone traps and inspecting nut clusters for egg lay. The pheromone traps will indicate the presence of adult moths and provide a way to monitor their activity. By inspecting nut clusters for eggs you can determine the degree of infestation and, based on the color change associated with the maturation of the egg, you can then determine the optimum time to apply an insecticide. Ideally, insecticide applications should be made when the majority of the eggs are pink in color. The casebearer eggs can be found near the tip of the nutlets. Pictures of casebearer eggs can be found at the Pecan Research-Extension Station web site under entomology:

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Pecan/Features/Entomology/.

Whether control measures are needed or not depends on the severity of the infestation and the size of the nut crop. In years when the crop load is heavy, the pecan nut casebearer can provide a natural way to thin excessive nuts from the tree. However, if the crop load is light or if the infestation levels are severe, control measures may be warranted. . During years of heavy crop loads, treat only when 5%-10% of the nut clusters sampled are infested. During years of light crops, this level of infestation can be reduced to 3%-5%.

Northwestern Louisiana has traditionally had some nut casebearer present most years. Northeastern Louisiana has traditionally not had nut casebearer. An extensive examination for casebearer in the 1980's in Northeastern Louisiana detected no casebearers. About 10-12 years ago two orchards in Ouachita parish had 15 – 20% of nut clusters infested with casebearers. These orchards have had no casebearer previous or since this infestation. An orchard 4-5 miles away had no casebearer the same year.

During the past 15 years casebearer appear to generally be present in a couple of Ouachita parish commercial pecan orchards. They have usually been most prevalent on the Desirable variety. Nut casebearer has also been detected at the Calhoun Research Station in western Ouachita parish for a number of years. Last year a significant number of nut clusters were damaged in a small unmanaged pecan orchard in Madison parish.

These observations suggest that pecan nut casebearer may be expanding in Northeast Louisiana; however, there presence appears to be spotty.

The following insecticides give good control of casebearer: Lorsban 4E at 1.5-2.0 pts/acre, Imidan 70W at 2.0-3.0 lbs/acre, Confirm 2F at 8.0-16.0 fl. ozs/acre, Intrepid 2F at 4.0-8.0 fl. ozs/acre, Spintor 2SC at 4.0-10.0 fl. ozs/acre, Warrior at 2.56-5.12 fl.ozs/acre, Demilin 2L at 8.0-16.0 fl. ozs/acre, Ammo 2.5EC at 3.0-5.0 fl. ozs/acre, Mustang Max at 3.2-4.0 fl. ozs/acre, Proaxis at 2.56-5.12 fl. ozs/acre and Entrust at 1.25-3.0 ozs/ acre. Entrust is certified for use in organic orchards.

Pecan Phylloxera

Phylloxera galls are present in orchards at this time. Check for galls to detect future areas for phylloxera control or for sites of control failure. A couple of orchards have indicated inadequate phylloxera control in Northeast Louisiana. This may be due to late phylloxera emergence.

Upcoming Events

June 13: Pecan Research-Extension Station Field Day.

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch and pecan equipment exhibits at 12:30. After lunch there will be a variety of topics discussed during an orchard tour.

You are invited to attend our Field Day program to learn about current research programs and extension activities being conducted by the AgCenter Pecan Station staff.

Please let us know by Friday, June 6 if you plan to attend so that we may plan accordingly. The number to call is (318) 797-8034 ext 2305, fax us at (318) 676-7371 or if more convenient e-mail us at dreeves@agcenter.lsu.edu.

June 13 – 14: Louisiana Pecan Growers' Association 2008 Annual Conference and Trade Show. Theme "Reducing Orchard Costs".

June 13 – Field presentations and equipment demonstrations held at the Pecan Research-Extension Station, 10300 Harts Island Road, Shreveport, LA. Event held in conjunction with Pecan Research-Extension Station Field Day. Attending program from 2:00 -3:30 p.m. can be used for pesticide recertification.

June 14—Program and Exhibits 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. held in Clarion Hotel, 1419 E. 70 th St., Shreveport, LA.

July 24 – 25: Tri-State Annual Convention and Trade Show of the Pecan Producers of Louisiana.

The convention will be held at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Additional information can be obtained from Stephen Norman at (318)448-3139 or pecan@pecanproducers.org.

Sincerely,



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