

Texas Cooperative Extension TEXAS PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



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Anyone wanting this newsletter by email please send me a note at the above email address and I'll put you the list. If any one has had an address change from a rural route box number to a 911 address please let me know so I can make the change. I have had to drop several producers because of returned letters with incorrect/old addresses.

GENERAL

Rains across the state have caused some concern and problems with timing pecan nut casebearer applications and fungicides for pecan scab. From what I have observed the crop is quit variable with some varieties having good to heavy crop loads and some bing light. Overall I would have to say the crop is moderate. PNC seem to be later than normal and egg lay has ranged from 0 to 10%. Egg development also appears to be a little slower, at least here in the College Station area.

INSECTS

Phylloxera

Galls produced by the different species of phylloxera are very apparent at this time. Galls that develop on the new woody tissue such as stems, nutlets, leaf petioles and mid veins of leaf lets are cause by the pecan stem phylloxera. These galls will be opening later this month and during June. Phylloxera infestations will cause some defoliation during June. There is no need to treat for these emerging phylloxera for no more galls will be formed this year. Trees with severe phylloxera infestations should be noted for treatment next spring. Treatment timing is when shoots have around 2 inches of new growth.

Spittle bug

Spittle masses caused by immature spittle bugs will be showing up soon. Here in Texas we do not see any economic benefit in a routine treatment for spittlebugs. However, I never like to say never. The nymphs which feed within the spittle masses on nutlets can cause nutlets to drop. Under high infestations rates (greater than 50 % of clusters infested on light crop) a treatment might be justified - in my opinion. Currently we do not have any data regarding the relationship of high percent infestations of nut clusters and crop impact.

Pecan Catocala

I have received one report of this insect defoliating trees in Gonzales county. Pecan catocala larvae can reach lengths of 2 1/2 to 3 inches and are solitary feeders and there is only one generation per year. The larvae are dark gray and will resemble tree bark so they can be difficult to spot. When handled, the larvae whip their bodies from side to side. Treatments are generally not needed for this pest but if an infestation is out of control, they are easily controlled with most any insecticide.

Pecan nut casebearer

Pecan nut casebearer activity has been slow to develop in some areas. Trap catches have been

later than in past years and some producers have commented that trap catches have been very light. Egg lay also seems to be slow. In our PNC publication we state that egg starts around 7 to 10 days after initial trap catch. From what I have seen to date it is more toward the 10 day time period. I have also seen some eggs that are slow in maturing. White eggs that were flagged near College Station on Friday were just showing some spots on Monday so development will take longer than the 4 to 5 day time period. This is an example of why I like to flag infested clusters.

In orchards that I have scouted, egg lay has ranged from 0 to 10%. Orchards with very light egg lay may get by with out an insecticide application this year. With rain predicted across part of the state for the next several days the egg laying period could be extended. My best advice is to continue to scout even after treatments have been made. Egg development usually takes 4 to 5 days so if new eggs are laid 6 days after an insecticide application there will be active larvae 10+ days after your application and this might be pushing the residual effectiveness of your insecticide. Depending on crop load and percent egg a second application might be needed.

WEB SITE

Well I have finally received some much needed help in updating my website. The <u>pecankernel.tamu.edu</u> site has been redone. There are still a few sections that are undergoing construction and hopefully finished in the next week. I will try and keep current information available at this site. You will also be able to access past newsletters, Pecan South articles and publications. If you have any comment about the site or there are is something you would like to have posted, please let me know. The information on this site is for you the producer.

GRAZING RESTRICTIONS

So far this season I have received several inquiries on grazing restrictions associated with insecticides. A pesticide label, whether it is an insecticide, fungicide or any other pesticide is a legal document. On the label under directions for use it will state "It is a violation of Federal Law to use this product in a manner inconsistant with its labeling". If the label states "No livestock grazing - period" this means that after an application it is not legal to graze livestock until next spring. That's the law.

Current insecticides which allow grazing include:

malathion, carbaryl (Sevin), Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t. insecticides such as Dipel, Javelin), meth (Intrepid 2F), spinosad (SpinTor, Entrust) diflubenzuron (Dimilin 2L)

LEAF CONDITION

Over the past several years I have received several questions concerning the leaf condition depicted in the picture. The small necrotic lesions, irregular shaped holes or tears can make some leafs look very ragged. Honestly I do not know what causes this. One explanation I have heard is it is caused by thrips feeding while leaves are in the bud or just unfolding, but I have no data or information to back this up. Although terminals might look very ragged, I don't feel that the overall impact is significant. There is no need for any insecticide or fungicide application to correct this problem.



MEETINGS: June 11-13, 2004 Oklahoma Pecan Growers Annual Conference Idabel, OK Contact: OPGAShelton @aol.com

June 14-15, 2004

Pecan Producers of Louisiana Annual Conference, Best Western St. Francis on the Lake, St. Francisville, LA Contact: 318-448-3139

June 16-18, 2004

Louisiana Pecan Growers Annual Conference Baton Rouge, LA Contact: Frances Knox 318-747-3003 or francesknox@bell-south.net

July 11-14, 2004

83rd Annual Texas Pecan Growers Conference and Trade Show San Antonio, TX Contact: TPGA - 979-846-3285

Texas County Meetings: May 13, 2004

Gaines County Pecan Field Day Contact - 432-758-4006

May 19 2004

El Paso County Pecan Field Day Contact: Sarah Downing 915-859-7725

Note the Wichita/Clay county meeting has been moved from May 20. At this time the date has not been set

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