

## **Pecan Nut Casebearer**

The Pecan Nut Casebearer is one of the most important nut infesting insect pests for pecans. The Pecan Nut Casebearer completes two to four generations per year with the first generation having the greatest potential for damage. Adults of the overwintering generation emerge in April or May and lay eggs on the nutlets soon after pollination.

The best way to determine when or if to spray for the casebearer is to scout for eggs. Most casebearer eggs are found at the tip of the nutlet, either on top of or just under the tiny leaves called sepals. A good hand lens is necessary to identify casebearer eggs and determine their development. The eggs are white when laid and turn pink as they near hatching. Also look just below the nut cluster to detect the presence of newly hatched larvae.

This year it is extremely important for pecan producers, as well as, homeowners to scout trees for egg lay. Adult pecan nut casebearer activity has been very sporadic due to weather conditions. Initial activity however is earlier than most years. Begin scouting for eggs now. Depending on the pecan nut load, usually around 5% nut entry warrants an application of insecticide. However, if trees are really loaded, a spraying may not be necessary for light casebearer infestations.

Adult pecan nut casebearer activity has been monitored in multiple locations in the Hallettsville area using pheromone baited traps. Based on this information, spray time for Lavaca County will range from April 27 through May 1. Products with significant residual control should be applied toward the beginning of this time period. Please refer to product labels for rates and grazing restrictions. It is very important to remember that it is difficult to determine an exact spray day for the entire county, therefore, it is important for growers to scout for themselves.

If questions should arise regarding the Pecan Nut Casebearers please contact Shannon DeForest, County Extension Agent –Ag and Natural Resources at 361-798-2221.