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## 2018

Well ready or not a new season is fast approaching. This is the first pecan IPM newsletter of the year during which I will write 10 – 12 letters, (March through September), during the growing season covering activities, events and happening as related to pecan IPM. If anyone has a particular question or problem related to pecan IPM that you would like to see addresses please send me a note for I am always open for discussion topics. If you do not wish to receive this letter please send a note and I'll you from the mailing list.

## Obscure Scale

As the name implies obscure scale infestations can be difficult to spot. Infestations, especially heavy infestations will appear as if someone has sprinkled ash on the limbs as shown in the attached picture. When checking for this type of infestation it is best to check on 3 or 4 year old wood.

In the life cycle of this scale, females will excrete a waxy covering about 1/8 inch in diameter under which they feed and lay eggs.

When immatures emerge from eggs they are referred to as crawlers which is the only mobile stage of this insect. Once a crawler has moved and settled in a new location it begins to feed, excretes the waxy covering and it will never move again. Fortunately, there is only one generation per year.

These insects feed by inserting their mouthparts or styles into the conductive tissue of the tree and feed on the plant sap. They do not produce any honeydew. Heavy infestations can cause limb dieback and will reduce overall tree vigor.



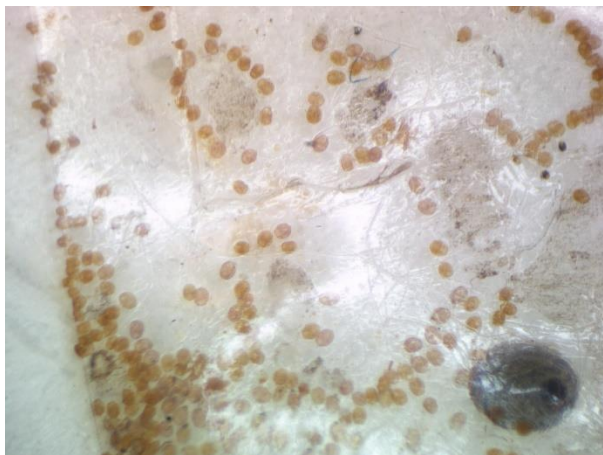
**Figure 1** Young pecan tree with heavy scale infestation

There are some beneficial lady beetles and mites that feed on scale and a few parasites which help, but if control is needed that control will have to come from the application of a dormant oil. Although we now have some

highly refined light summer oils, pecan is considered an oil sensitive crop and any oil application needs to be restricted to the late dormant season.



**Figure 2. Double-sided sticky tape secured with push pin to monitor scale crawlers**



**Figure 3. Scale crawlers collected on sticky tape during June. Note scale on tape in bottom right corner for size comparison**

If the opportunity to manage with dormant oil is missed some control can be done by treating for the crawlers. I have used double-sided tape to monitor crawler activity, which occurs during May and June. Tape should be placed around 2 or 3 year old wood.

### **Pecan Nut Casebearer**

Anyone in the pecan business knows the importance of monitoring and management of PNC and we as a commodity are fortunate in that we have an excellent monitoring tool with the

PNC pheromone trap. Using the pheromone trap along with the PNC Forecast model at <http://pecan.ipm.tamu.edu> can pinpoint a treatment window, which are the predicted dates between 25% and 50% completion of egg lay.

The PNC Forecast model can be found under the Maps link. For producers running PNC traps, mark your trap location on the map and enter first trap catch date. The model will predict best estimates for 10, 25, 50, 75 and 90 percent completion of egg lay. Your decision window, scouting and treatment time will be that time between 25 and 50 completion of egg lay.

The following are a few businesses that I am aware of that sell PNC traps and lures. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension recommends 3 traps for 50 acres or less and at least 5 traps for orchards larger than 50 acres. Traps should be placed in the orchard 20 -30 days prior to an average spray date to ensure that the start of the initial adult flight is detected.

### **Pecan Nut Casebearer Pheromone and Traps**

#### **Alpha Scents**

1089 Willamette Falls Drive,  
West Linn, OR 97068

**Sales:** 503-342-8611 — 971-998-8248

**Fax:** 314-271-7297

<http://www.alphascents.com>

#### **Gempler's**

P.O. Box 44993

Madison, WI 53744-4993

Order by Phone: 1-800-382-8473

#### **Great Lakes IPM Inc.**

10220 Church Road

Vestaburg, MI 48891-9746

Ph: 989-268-5693 or 989-268-5911

Toll Free: 1-800-235-0285

Fax: 989-268-5693

E-mail: [glipm@nethawk.com](mailto:glipm@nethawk.com)

<http://www.greatlakesipm.com/>

#### **ISCA Technologies / Moritor Technologies**

P.O. Box 5266

Riverside, California 92517

Tel: 951-686-5008

Fax: 815-346-1722

email: [info@iscatech.com](mailto:info@iscatech.com)  
Web: [www.iscatech.com](http://www.iscatech.com)

**Oliver Pecan Co. Inc.**

1402 W. Wallace, San Saba, TX 76877  
800-657-9291  
E-mail: [soliver@centex.net](mailto:soliver@centex.net)

**Pape Pecan House**

P.O. Box 1281  
101 S. Hwy 123 Bypass  
Seguin, TX 78155  
Ph: 830-379-7442

**Southern Nut 'n Tree Equipment, Inc and PPI**

324 SH 16 South  
Goldthwaite, TX 76844  
1-800-527-1825  
Fax: 325-938-5490  
E-mail: [sales@pecans.com](mailto:sales@pecans.com)

**Trece – for bulk orders only**

P.O. Box 129  
Adair, OK 74330  
Ph: 918-785-3061  
Fax: 918-785-3063  
Email: [custserv@trece.com](mailto:custserv@trece.com)  
Order Center: 866-785-1313  
<http://www.trece.com>

**Granulate Ambrosia Beetle**

**Aka: Asian Ambrosia beetle**

I first observed this insect in the early 1990's infesting pecans in Anderson County, TX. The Granulate ambrosia beetle, *Xylosandrus crassiusculus* is an invasive ambrosia beetle that was first detected in the United States in the mid 1970's infesting peaches in South Carolina.

This beetle attacks a wide range of deciduous trees, which unfortunately includes pecan and is present in the eastern half of Texas.

Infestation usually first become apparent in the spring when newly infested trees either fail to leaf out or the tree leafs out but the new foliage soon wilts.



**Figure 4. Toothpick like structures created by female ambrosia beetles.**

Infestations also have a characteristic “toothpick” of frass that sticks out about ½ to 1 ½ inches as shown in the attached pictures. These infestations are usually on the main trunk or scaffold limbs but can even occur on exposed roots.

Infestations start in the spring with a mated female beetle initiating an attack on a host plant. These female ambrosia beetles carry spores of a fungus with them which they inoculate their galleries. The female lays eggs in her gallery and the adult beetle and the larvae feed on the fungus rather than the tree. Upon completion of larval development males mate with their sisters and only mated females exit the host plant to start the cycle again. Males are not capable of flight

Trees that are heavily infested, as shown in the pictures will die and should be removed. However, under light infestations, trees can survive.



**Figure 5. Evidence of ambrosia beetle infestation**

Removed trees should be destroyed (burned, chipped, buried, etc.) rather than just tossed on a brush pile. The attached pictures were taken recently in Galveston county so activity has already started.

**2018 COUNTY/ STATE/REGIONAL MEETINGS/EVENTS**

**TX COUNTY MEETINGS**

**April 5, 2018**

Central TX Short Course  
Mills County  
First United Methodist Church, 1011 Hutchings St, Goldthwaite, TX  
Contact: Ton Guthrie @ 325-648-2650

**April 16, 2018**

East TX Pecan Conference  
Palestine, TX  
Contact: Truman Lamb @ 903-723-3735

**April 25, 2018**

Guadalupe County Field Day  
Contact: Travis Franke @ 830-303-3889

**May 3, 2018**

Clay County field day  
Contact: Bill Holcombe @

**May 7, 2018**

San Saba County  
Contact: Neal Alexander @ 325-372-5416

**STATE/REGIONAL MEETINGS**

**March 27-28, 2018**

Georgia Pecan Growers Association Conference  
UGA Conference Center, Tifton, GA  
Contact: [samantha@georgiapecan.org](mailto:samantha@georgiapecan.org)

**June 14-16, 2018**

Oklahoma Pecan Growers Conference  
Downstream Casino and Resort  
Quapaw, OK  
Contact: OPGA at [info@okpecangrowers.com](mailto:info@okpecangrowers.com)

**June 21-22, 2018**

Tri-State Pecan Conference  
Raymond, MS  
Contact: Steve Norma at:  
[pecans@rosaliepecans.com](mailto:pecans@rosaliepecans.com) or 318-448-3139

**July 15-18, 2018**

Texas Pecan Growers Conference and Trade Show  
Embassy Suites and Conference Center  
San Marcos, TX  
Contact: TPGA at: 979-846-3285 or  
[pecans@tpga](mailto:pecans@tpga)

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