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Pecan Nut Casebearer

I think it is safe to say that first generation casebearer has passed here in Texas and now it is time to consider second generation. However, like everyone else I don't want to be blindsided because I assumed there should not be a problem. Producers can put out fresh PNC lures and traps and monitor for adults and check for eggs. This is also a time when crop loads can be evaluated.

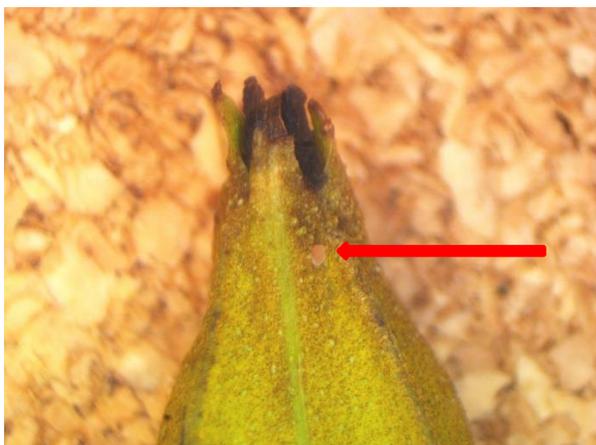


Figure 1 Second generation PNC egg

If the crop load is considered good or better (50% of terminals with clusters) then second generation probably will not be an issue. However, if the crop is marginal or light then second generation could be a problem. Second generation eggs are more likely to be laid on the side of the nutlet as shown in the picture but I have on an occasion found eggs on the small dried up stigma. I take the approach that if there is a way to monitor to assist in making management decisions then I will.

Walnut Caterpillar

At the end of May I received some calls concerning walnut caterpillar activity in Fort Bend and Blanco counties. Given the time of year and these calls I issued a pest alert for walnut caterpillar through TPGA last week.

Because defoliation can happen so quickly with walnut caterpillar, the best defense a producer can have is to recognize a problem before the situation gets out of hand.



Figure 2 Defoliation from walnut caterpillar

Recognition of a problem can come from: finding egg masses; finding defoliated terminals; finding colonies that have moved to the tree trunk to molt to the 5th and final instar and excess droppings on the orchard floor, equipment and sidewalks. Research has shown that of all the foliage a walnut caterpillar will consume during the larval stage, about 80% will be consumed during 3 or 4 days once the larvae reach the 5th instar.



Figure 3 5th instar walnut caterpillar



Figure 4 Walnut caterpillars on tree trunk

Defoliation will not kill a tree but will severely impact the crop. For homeowners that do not have the ability to treat the canopy, treating the colonies on the tree trunk with a contact insecticide is an option.

During the first four instars the larvae feed in a colony or group, do not make a web and are brownish in color. Fifth instars are black with white hairs and will now feed as individuals rather than as a group.

2018 COUNTY/ STATE/REGIONAL MEETINGS/EVENTS

June 14-16, 2018

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

June 21-22, 2018

Tri-State Pecan Conference
Raymond, MS
Contact: Steve Norma at:
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.org

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