Texas A&M AgriLife Extension TEXAS PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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TPGA CONFERENCE

The TPGA conference is just around the corner (July 15 – 18) and once again, TPGA has put together a great conference agenda and tour so I hope you will be attending: https://www.tpga.org/upload/text/TPGA_Conference_Agenda:Educational_Program.pdf

During the conference I will have a booth near the registration desk where you will be able to find me during the breaks. Hope to see you next week.

INSECTS

Most of the pest issues I am seeing and/or receiving reports on are foliage pests, primarily black pecan aphid and some mite issues. I've always been told that there are two crops on a tree, the nut crop and the foliage which represents the next years crop. In order to have a good crop you need to protect the foliage and black aphids and mites can be a serious problem.

Black pecan aphid: Watch for black aphids in crowded areas of the orchard and in the interior of the canopy. I have also seen higher infestations on Pawnee.

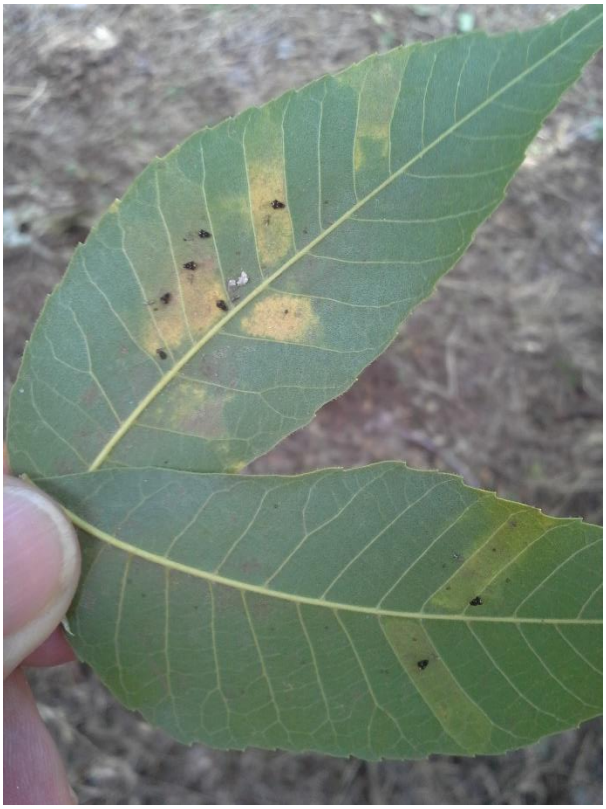

Figure 1. Black pecan aphids

Insecticide recommendations for black aphids can be found in a table at the end of the newsletter. The treatment threshold is an average of 3 per compound leaf. This aphid can be found on both the upper and lower surfaces of the leaf and damage can be characterized by the rectangular yellow areas that stop abruptly at a secondary leaf vein as shown in Figure 1.

Pecan leaf scorch mites: As the growing season is now entering the hot dry months of mid-summer, one important foliage pest that is showing up is the pecan leaf scorch mite, *Eotetranychus hicoriae* (McGregor). Although

there are numerous species (27 species covering eight families of phytophagous and predatory species) associated with pecan, the pecan leaf scorch mite, is one of if not the most important.

Scorch mites are present all year and can be held below damaging population levels by predators and environmental conditions, however, pesticide use and hot dry conditions can lead to a population build up which will require management. As with all foliage pests, early recognition of a problem along with management actions is the key to preventing significant damage.

Scorch mites have multiple generations per year and development time from egg to adult is very short, 5 to 15 days under favorable conditions so damaging populations can arise very quickly. Feeding by scorch mites will result in brownish or liver colored areas along the mid-vein of leaflets as shown in the attached picture. This scorching should not be confused with leaf scorch along leaflet margins caused by nutrient imbalance or pecan bacterial leaf scorch.

Damaging infestations generally start in the lower and interior areas of the canopy then spread outward as populations increase. If a damaging infestation is detected, then surrounding trees should be checked. If an infestation is localized then a spot treatment might be applied.

When management is needed, there are numerus products to choose from. Products for pecan leaf scorch mites can be found in the table at the end of this letter. As with any pesticide, always read and follow directions for application, restrictions and safety.

Figure 2. Pecan leaf scorch mite damage

Walnut caterpillar: Although I have not received any reports lately, second generation walnut caterpillar is active at this time. As I mentioned in my previous letter, recognition of the early stages of an infestation is critical to preventing a major loss. For Texas there can be 2 to 3 generations per year with 245 frost free days being the dividing line. Usually trees damaged by one generation will not be infested by the next generation because the foliage will not be at the right maturity.

Figure 3. 5th instar walnut caterpillar

2018 COUNTY/ STATE/REGIONAL MEETINGS/EVENTS

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

August 24, 2018
Arizona Pecan Growers Annual Conference
Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel
Tucson, AZ
Contact: Mike Kilby: mkilby@email.arizona.edu or 520-403-4613

September 6, 2018
Georgia Pecan Growers Assoc. Annual Fall Field Day
USDA-ARS Facility, Byron, GA.
Contact GPGA @ 229-382-2187

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Table 5. Suggested insecticide to control yellow pecan aphids (blackmargined and yellow pecan aphids) and black aphids. This information is provided for educational purposes only. Read and follow label directions.

Insecticide			
Active ingredient	**IRAC group**	**Brand name**	**Remarks**
Imidachloprid*	4A	Admire® Pro Advise® 2 FL, Max Alias 2F AmTide Imidacloprid 2F Amtide Imidacloprid 4F Couraze® 1.6F Couraze® 2F Couraze 4F Lada 2F Imida® E-AG 1.6 F Imida® E-AG 2F Impulse® 1.6 F Macho® 2.0 FL Malice® 75WSP Mana® Alias 4F Merit® 2F, 75WSP Montana® 2F Nuprid® 1.6F Nuprid® 2F Nuprid® 4F Pasada® 1.6F Prey® 1.6 Provado® 1.6F Sherpa® Trimax Pro® Widow® Wrangler	Do not graze livestock
Clothianidin	4A	Belay Arena	Do not graze
Flonicamid	9C	Beleaf 50SG, Carbine 50WG	Do not graze livestock, 40 day PHI
Pymetrozine	9B	Fulfill	Grazing allowed
Thiamethoxam	4A	Centric 40WG Flagship 25WG	Centric can be applied to bearing trees. Flagship can only be applied to nonbearing trees only.
Dimethoate	1B	Dimethoate® 4E Dimate® 4EC, 4E Dimethoate® 4EC Dimethoate® 5lb	Do not graze livestock in treated orchards. Marginal control of yellow aphids has been observed

Table 7. Suggested insecticides to control pecan leaf scorch mite. This information is provided for educational purposes. Read and follow label directions.

Insecticide			
Active ingredient	**IRAC group**	**Brand name**	**Remarks**
Fenbutatin-oxide	12B	Vendex® 50 WP	Do not apply within 14 days of harvest.
Dicofol	unknown	Kelthane® MF	Do not apply within 7 days of harvest
Hexythiazox	10A	Onager® Savey® 50 DF Hexygon DF Hexy 2E	For non-bearing orchards only. Do not graze treated orchards.
Bifenazate	unknown	Acramite® 50 SC	Do not graze treated orchards.
Spirodiclofen	23	Envidor® 2 SC	Grazing allowed
Cyflumetofen	25	Nealta	Grazing allowed
Fenazaquin	21	Magus	Non-bearing trees only
Fenpyroximate	21A	Fujimite 5EC Portal XLO	Grazing allowed Grazing allowed