



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension TEXAS PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



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PECAN MARKET NEWSLETTER

Now that harvest is approaching, are you interested in current market trends, prices and harvest updates? Well Pecan South has a market newsletter that will let you keep current.

Published by *Pecan South*, the Pecan Newsletter provides weekly harvest and market updates from September to January. *Pecan South* editors compile reports from growers and price and market information from reliable sources from across the U.S. and Mexico, and the editors then write up these weekly updates, while keeping contributors' information confidential.

The newsletter gives subscribers an insight into what's happening across the Pecan Belt and Mexico during harvest season. If you're interested in subscribing to the Pecan Newsletter, you can sign up on pecansouthmagazine.com or by calling their office at 979-846-3352. If you'd like to

contribute information to the newsletter as an anonymous source, please email Catherine Clark, *Pecan South's* managing editor, at cclark@pecansouthmagazine.com

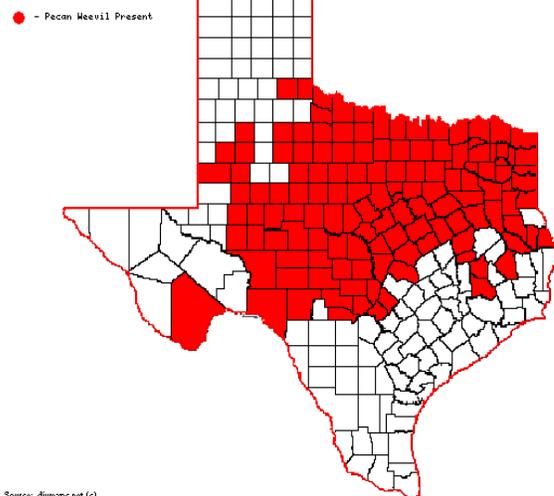
The newsletter is \$85 for email and \$95 mail.

INSECTS

Pecan Weevil

Pecan weevil has been detected in several new counties over the past few years with the most recent detections being in Brewster and Lynn

Pecan Weevil Distribution on Pecan – 2018



Source: dynamaps.net (c)

Figure 1 Current known distribution of pecan weevil

counties. The map in figure two is the most recent distribution map, however, I have verbal reports from Bailey, Ector and Guadalupe counties. These are verbal reports only and can only be confirmed with voucher specimens of damaged nuts, larvae and / or adult weevils. If anyone suspects they have

pecan weevil in a county not shown please contact your county Extension agent or myself.

Pecan weevil can be a threat up until the latest maturing cultivar reaches shuck split so continue to monitor emergence traps until this time.



Figure 2. Exit holes made in pecan shells by pecan weevil grubs. Photo credit – Dr. Pat Porter, Texas A&M AgriLife



Figure 3. Pecan weevil grubs

Stored product insect issues

Stored product insects can be an issue through out the food chain. For those producers that do retail now is the time to prepare for this problem. By following some of the suggestions listed below you can reduce your risk of infestations.

Sanitation – Sanitation is the first step for any

insect problem. A good cleaning of all equipment used for cracking, shelling should be done on a regular basis. For hard to access areas of equipment use an air hose to blow out debris. I have seen retail stores with wood floors that had spaces between boards which contain food debris such as pecan kernels that have been dropped, stepped on and forced into cracks. If there are cakes, cookies, candies etc. in display cases these need to be rotated out on a regular basis.

Identification of the insect – Proper identification of the insect could help identify problem areas and infested products.

Detection of infestations – If an infestation is noticed, you need to find the source and remove infested materials. Since many of these stored product insects feed on a wide range of materials you need check unlikely sources such as candies, flower arrangements that may have seeds, spice containers and even rodent blocks that may have grain can all be a source.

Cold storage – Food items that are not going to be used or sold in a short time period should be held under refrigeration or in a freezer.

Physical/Mechanical – Make sure all doors and windows have tight seals. Repair any screens that may be torn or have holes.

Monitoring tools – There is a wide range of pheromones and traps that can be used to monitor the presence of stored product insects. There are pheromones for Lepidoptera pests (Indian meal moth) and various beetles – cigarette and drug store beetles. These traps can be placed out of view from the public and will act as a warning that there is a potential problem.

Use quality-packaging material – I feel that as an industry we have come a long way in

how pecans are packaged and presented to the public in retail stores.

Insecticide applications – As a last resort for serious problems insecticides can be used.

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