

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
**TEXAS PECAN PEST
MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER**

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#14-3

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GENERAL

From all the producers I have talked to and orchards I have been in the crop looks large for both improved cultivars and natives.

Unfortunately, except for some areas in east Texas, a good portion of the Texas orchard acreage is in a drought and a large crop with no, or limited water is not good. With the moisture conditions as they are, good weed control is an absolute must.



Figure 1 Freeze damage in a San Saba county orchard

In addition to the drought, many producers suffered freeze damage from the mid-April freeze.

Some orchards in low elevations were hit pretty hard, especially young trees.

INSECTS

Pecan nut casebearer: It is that time of year when PNC has become active and several of our volunteer producers have reported trap catches and these locations have been posted on the PNC Risk map at <http://pecan.ipmpipe.org>.

One of the most important IPM tools a producer has is the PNCforecast system which allows producers to make oviposition predictions for their own orchard based on their own PNC pheromone trap collections. I have posted below some information on the forecast system from our PNCforecast brochure which was put together by Dr. Allen Knutson:

The PNCforecast System. The PNCforecast System allows you to predict when first generation pecan nut casebearer (PNC) eggs will be present in your orchard using PNC moth data from your pheromone traps and local temperatures. The best way to use PNC moth trap counts is to generate a PNCForecast so you know when to expect eggs to be present in your orchard. PNCforecast calculates dates when first generation eggs are expected to be present in the orchard and helps anticipate the optimum dates to begin scouting the orchard for PNC eggs. Knowing when eggs are expected can help you time insecticide treatments, if needed, to when they are most effective.

To generate a PNCforecast, you need to know the date when PNC moths begin flying in your orchard. Place your traps in the orchard before the first moths fly and inspect traps every 1-2 days.

Once traps are in the orchard, there should be several days when no moths are captured to be sure the first moths that appear in your traps are indeed the first ones of the spring flight. Selecting the date when you first capture PNC moths in your traps is very important. Sometimes 1-2 PNC moths are captured and then none are captured on subsequent dates. Ignore these early “stragglers” if no new PNC are present in your traps on the next inspection date. Once you capture moths on two consecutive dates, the sustained moth flight is underway. Choose the first date of the two consecutive dates as the date of first moth capture.

How To Generate a PNC Forecast.

Once you know the date of first moth capture in your traps, you are ready to generate a PNCforecast for your orchard. Log onto: <http://pecan.ipmpipe.org/> At the home page, select ”Public Maps” and then “PNC Forecast Map”. At the top left, select “Choose Location” and use the arrows in the circle at the top left to find you orchard on the map. Use the magnifying glass to zoom in our out on the map. Once the map is fully magnified and the cursor is at your orchard location, right click. This will place a red pin at your orchard site. The PNCForecast will use the average temperature expected during the next 3-4 weeks to predict PNC development. Next, at the top right at “Set Biofix”, click on “Select Date” and use the calendar to enter the date on which you captured the first PNC moths in traps at this orchard location. Once you enter this date, the site will then generate a PNC forecast both as a graph and table.

How To Use PNCForecast Results.

PNCForecast will generate a table showing the dates when 10, 25, 50, 75 and 90% of all first generation PNC eggs are expected to be present in the orchard. An example of a table is shown below.

Percent of All Eggs	Date
10%	May 7
25%	May 10
50%	May 13
75%	May 16
90%	May 19

Begin scouting your orchard for PNC eggs on the dates when 25-50% of all eggs are expected to be present. If PNC egg numbers are not at a treatment threshold at that time, return on the dates of 50-75% egg lay (2-3 days later) and scout for eggs again. If the numbers of eggs and larvae are still below threshold, scout a third time on the dates when 75-90% of the eggs are expected to determine if PNC infestations have increased to a threshold level justifying an insecticide treatment. The percentages in the table are NOT the expected percent of nutlets infested with eggs, but an estimate of what proportion of total eggs are expected to be present on a given day. The orchard must be sampled (scouted) to determine if the PNC infestation justifies treatment and when to apply the insecticide.

WALNUT SPHINX CATERPILLAR

I have just received a report of a “significant” outbreak of walnut sphinx larvae defoliating a native pecan bottom in Lavaca County.



Figure 2 Early instar walnut sphinx larvae



Figure 3 Late instar walnut sphinx larvae

The walnut sphinx, *Amorpha juglandis*, is in the same family (Sphingidae) of horn worms that feed on your tomato plants, however, *A. juglandis* only feeds on walnut, hickory, hazelnut, beech, alder and hop-hornbeam. Unlike walnut caterpillar that requires mature foliage this species will feed on young foliage which can include the regrowth from previously defoliated trees. Management of damaging populations will be important, especially under drought conditions. Damaged or defoliated trees will have to spend extra energy to re-foliate which will take away from energy needed for nut production.

TEXAS WATER LAWS PRESENTATION

Texas Range Webinar Series

Upcoming Webinar Reminder



Texas Water Law

Presenter: Dr. Ron Kaiser
Date: May 1 2014
Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CST
Credit: None

Although not directly related to pecan production, water issues are becoming important and impact all of us so I thought this topic would be of interest. The Webinar is Thursday May 1st 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM which I know is short notice but if you can't view the presentation it will be archived at "naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu" website for later viewing. To view the May 1st webinar go to the link listed below and log on.

<http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/webinars/texas-water-law//webinars/texas-water-law/>

If you have any questions on this topic please contact:

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TEXAS COUNTY FIELD DAYS

May 5, 2014

San Saba County meeting

Contact: San Saba county office @
325-372-5416

STATE MEETINGS

June 12-14, 2014

Oklahoma Pecan Growers Annual conference
Tulsa convention Center, Tulsa, OK

Contact: Amanda.early@okstate.edu

June 19-20, 2014

TriState ArkLaMiss Pecan Convention and Trade show, Alexandria, LA

Contact: Stephen Norman@ (318) 448-3139 or
pecans@rosaliepecans.com

July 13-16, 2014

Texas Pecan Growers Conference and Trade Show, Embassy Suites.

San Marcos, TX.

Contact: TPGA @979-846 -3285 or
pecans@tpga.org

August 29, 2014

Arizona Pecan Growers Conference

Palo Verde Holiday Inn,

Tucson, AZ

Contact: Mike Kilby @ 520-403-4613 or

mkilby@cals.arizona.edu

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