

## A Guide for Evaluating Pecan Problems

# Evaluating Pecan Problems

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Condition	Likely Cause
Poorly Filled, Wafer Kernels	Soil, Irrigation, Heavy Crop, Management
Kernels with Air Centers and Fuzz	Drought Without Irrigation or Other Stress
Green or Black Sticktight Pecans in November	No Late Season Irrigation or Other Stress
Pecans Sprouting (Vivipary) While on The Tree	No Late Season Irrigation or Other Stress
Rapid Tree Death in August or Early September	Cotton Root Rot
Blue, Green and Grey Moss (Lichens) on Limbs or Trunks	Shallow Soil, No Management
Little Leaves, Short Shoots	Zinc, Soil, Irrigation, Nitrogen, Weeds
Little Yellow Leaves on Young Trees	No New Root Growth, Too Much or Too Little Water
Young Tree New Growth Dies Repeatedly	Root Desiccation or Freeze Damage at Nursery
Small Leaves Which Curve	Zinc Deficiency
Leaf Edges Wavy	Zinc Deficiency
Leaves With Dark Interveinal Discoloration	Zinc Deficiency
Shoots Growing Thick in Bunches, Some Dead, Some Alive	Zinc Deficiency
Zinc Deficiency Symptoms with Frequent Sprays and Other Good Conditions	Nematodes
Zinc Deficiency Symptoms with Frequent Sprays and Other Good Conditions	Sheep Manure
Very Rapid Twisting and Turning Shoots on Young Trees	Barnyard Manure Effect

Very Twisted and Distorted New Shoots on Old Trees	2,4-D Herbicide Damage
Spring Buds/Leaves Wild and Irregular Shaped	Last Year Roundup Herbicide Damage
Shoots Growing Thick in Bunches, on Trunk, All Alive	Bunch Disease
Nuts Shedding in May with No Hole	Natural or Pollination Drop
Nuts Shedding With Small Hole at Base of Nut	Pecan Nut Casebearer
Nuts Shedding in August During Waterstage	Any Stress or Insect Feeding
Nuts Shedding in August with Black Shucks and Half Filled Kernel	Shuck Dieback
Bark Peeling Off	No Problem, Rapid Growth
Vertical Splits in the Bark with Yellow Moist Wood Exposed	No Problem, Rapid Growth
Vertical Splits in the Bark and Wood Which Is Dried Out and Grey	Freeze
Perfect Ring or Rings of Small Holes Around the Trunk	No Problem, Sapsucker Woodpecker
Large Patches of Young Green Bark Missing on New Growth	Squirrel Feeding
Pecans on the Ground Wwth Holes Punched in The Shuck or Shell	Bluejay or Crow Feeding
Dead Limbs or Trees, April to June with Sprouts at Ground Line	Freeze
Dead Trunk on South or Southwest Side with Ground Suckers in Spring	Freeze
Limbs Die Suddenly Followed By Regrowth Which Also Dies	Freeze
Black Spots on Leaves or Leaf Midrib, Black Lesions on Shucks	Pecan Scab Disease
Brown Dead Tissue Around the Edge of the Leaflet	Chloride, Salt Burn
Sticky Sap or Honeydew Dripping From Shiney Leaves	Yellow Aphid Feeding
Black and Yellow Areas on Leaflets in August or September	Black Pecan Aphid Feeding
Leaves Dull Color With Many Small Brown Spots and Defoliation	Spider Mites
Black Spots on Kernel	Stink Bug Damage
White Fuzz on Green Shucks	Powdery Mildew

White Weblike Growth on Clusters	Spittlebug
Galls on Nuts, Cluster, Leaves	Pecan Phylloxera
Young Tree Dead, Small Holes in Trunk with Sawdust Tube Sticking Out	Ambrosia Beetle
Small Fat White Grub with Red Head in Pecan	Pecan Weevil
Small, 1/8" Hole in Shell with Kernel Eaten	Pecan Weevil
Small White Grub Tunneling in the Shuck	Hickory Shuckworm
Small Limbs Drop in Late Summer or Fall with Perfect Circle Cut in Bark	Twig Girdler
Mass of Dark Grey Caterpillars Eating Foliage	Walnut Caterpillar
Mass of Thick Grey Webbing Filled with Caterpillars In Late Summer	Fall Webworm

## Summary

Pecan culture in Texas, whether it is commercial, native or landscape can be a very rewarding profession or avocation. There are millions of trees which produce good crops and reward the owners with a lifetime of satisfaction, pride, beauty and profits. The material presented here is not intended to discourage anyone who wants to grow pecans, but rather to help the grower who could be having problems. When all things are right for pecans at a site in Texas, there is no better crop one could choose.

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