



IN A NUTSHELL

NEWSLETTER

September 13, 2005

Number 4

Stink bugs

Stink bug numbers caught in light traps in pecan orchards in Shreveport and Monroe areas have been slowly increasing since the first of September. These observations indicate that stink bugs are starting to move as soybeans are harvested. This is the time to monitor pecan trees and adjacent fence rows for stink bug infestations. Stink bugs and leaffooted bugs are responsible for the black bitter spots found on the pecan kernel. Warrior, Mustang Max, PennCap-M and Ammo give good to excellent control of stink bugs and leaffooted bugs. Follow harvest restrictions in their use. See Chart.

Mike Hall from the LSU AgCenter's Pecan Research-Extension Station reported finding stink bugs and leaffooted bugs in his trap crop plots at the Pecan Station. He said that green stink bugs, brown stink bugs and leaffooted bugs were present in approximately equal numbers.

Shuckworms

Shuckworm moth numbers in light traps catches in Monroe and Shreveport areas have been declining since the last of August. Shuckworms should cause little damage after the middle of September.

Weevils

Pecan weevil numbers caught in traps at the Pecan Station have declined since August. Weevil damage is normally insignificant after the middle of September.

Scab

Fungicides are no longer needed this season for scab control.

Crop

Orchards in north Louisiana generally have a large crop. The pecan crop in south Louisiana appears to be very light.

Weather is a major factor in this year's crop. A severe drought is occurring in most of north Louisiana and is causing a lot of tree stress. Some of the nuts are starting to drop because of the

drought. Many remaining nuts may lose a percentage point or two in shell-out percentage. Shuck split was observed on Pawnee and Candy varieties this week at the Pecan Station.

The main part of hurricane Katrina missed the major pecan-producing areas of Louisiana; however, winds did blow down a few trees and broke a lot of limbs in orchards along the west side of the Mississippi River from Pointe Coupee Parish to Tallulah. These growers indicated that the crop loss was less than 20%.

David Ingram, an extension plant pathologist with Mississippi State University, indicated that trees south of Hattiesburg area were demolished. From Meridian north to Tupelo, there was increasingly less damage as you go north. A pecan orchard near Raymond, Miss., had a lot of broken limbs, but most nuts stayed on the trees if the limbs were not broken. The crop loss was 10% to 15%. The northwest delta region had minimal damage.

Field Day

LSU AgCenter's Pecan Research-Extension Station will have its annual field day Thursday, September 22. The Station is six miles south of LSU Shreveport, just off Youree Dr./Hwy. 1. Look for the Pecan Station sign near "The Port Shreveport/ Bossier" blue and white water tower.

Registration begins at 8:45 a.m., with the activities beginning at 9:15. Lunch will be served at 11:30. Activities include a field tour, report on research, introduction of new pecan station Web site and displays.

Please let the station know if you plan to attend, so that we may include you for lunch. Call **(318)797-8034 extension 2305** or e-mail dhubbard@agcenter.lsu.edu.

The Louisiana Pecan Producers Association will have a board meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Sincerely,

John Pyzner
Associate Professor, Pecan-Fruit Extension Specialist
LSU Ag Center
Pecan Research-Extension Station
jpyzner@agcenter.lsu.edu