



Agricultural Experiment Station
Pecan Research-Extension Station
10300 Harts Island Road (71115)
Post Office Box 5519
Shreveport, Louisiana 71135-5519
(318)797-8034
Fax: (318)676-7371
Web Site: www.lsuagcenter.com



IN A NUTSHELL

Newsletter

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PECAN SCAB

Shell hardening has occurred on all pecan varieties which stop most shuck growth. The lack of nut growth and dry weather has stopped new scab infections. A fungicide application for scab control applied in August should be adequate for the rest of the season unless some very unusually wet weather occurs in early August.

The small scab lesions can still increase in size after earlier infection. Fungicides are preventive or weakly locally systemic and will usually not kill an established scab infection. Some areas have reported severe drop on some of the more scab susceptible varieties in which heavy rains prevented timely fungicide applications in June and July. Scab infections reports on some of the more resistant varieties such as Sumner have been reported this year.

GENERAL INSECT

Insect and mite populations have generally been light in most areas. Shuckworm moth catches have been very light in the Shreveport although high numbers of shuckworm moths were caught in a light trap in the Monroe area in mid-August. Third generation shuckworm activity generally peaks around mid August. Shuckworm should cause little damage after the middle of September.

STINK BUGS

Stink bugs are a late season pest problem for pecan growers throughout Louisiana. Common host plant species for stink bugs include corn, cotton, soybeans, and a myriad of weed species. Although they don't reproduce and develop on pecan, stink bugs do feed on the nuts, even after shuck split. Briefly, the two types of feeding damage caused by stink bugs are nut abortion which occurs when the nut is punctured while still in the water stage, and kernel spots, which occur after the shell has hardened and the kernel has solidified. It is the later type of damage that causes the most problems for growers. Generally stink bugs are not a problem in pecan orchards until after the preferred plant species (corn, cotton, soybeans, and various weed hosts) no longer serve as a suitable host. It is then that the insects move into the trees and, being seed feeders, they actively seek out the nuts to feed on.

Control of this insect is somewhat difficult due to the fact that it is hard to determine their presence in the tree canopies, they can be active for extended periods of time, and there are no treatment thresholds. This makes it difficult not only to determine when to spray, but to also determine how many insecticide applications may be needed.

Suggested insecticides to use for stink bug control include Penncap-M (encapsulated methyl parathion), Ammo 2.5EC, Warrior, and Mustang Max. All but Penncap-M (encapsulated methyl parathion) are pyrethroids. These insecticides are effective in controlling southern green stink bug and the leaf-footed bug. Reports from row crop researchers indicate that the brown stinkbug is much more difficult to control and only moderate control can be expected. These insecticides will also control hickory shuckworm. If stink bugs are not a problem, an insecticide such as Confirm 2F or Intrepid 2F could be used for shuckworm control. Be aware that regular methyl parathion is not labeled for use on pecan. Also, it has little or no residual effect.

Little stinkbug activity has been seen in most pecans so far this season. That is likely to change quickly since corn and group four soybeans are currently being harvested. Stink bugs tend to move to pecans after more preferred plants are no longer available. Checking pecan for stink bugs is difficult since they blend in with foliage and they will often fly if there is activity around the trees. Stink bugs are easiest to see by slowly examining the trees early in the morning when bugs are not as active. Mid size insects flying from disturbed trees could also be a sign of stink bug activity. There currently is not a treatment threshold level available for Stink bugs.

With any insecticide, be sure to check the label for re-entry and pre-harvest intervals, and also any grazing restrictions. The pH of the water being used for spraying should be between 5.5 and 6.5 to assure optimum efficacy of the insecticide being used. Use of a buffering agent will help maintain the desired pH once pesticides have been added to a solution.

CROW CONTROL

The crow toxicant DRC-1339 will not be available in Louisiana this fall. The toxicant is expected to be registered in Louisiana for next year. Information and requirements for using the toxicant will be available at the pecan meetings next summer.

Mississippi pecan growers interested in using the crow toxicant should contact Kris Godwin: State Director for MS-USDA Wildlife Services at (662)325-3014.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 8: Pecan Clinic. 9:00 a.m. – 12:30p.m. Inglewood Plantation, Old Baton Rouge Hwy, Alexandria, LA. Old Baton Rouge Hwy is on the south side of Alexandria and goes east off Hwy 71 about 1.5 miles south of I-49 and 1 mile north of LSU Alexandria campus. For additional information contact Joe Musick (318)447-3984 or John Pyzner (318)797-8034 ext 2319.

Topics presented include: Late Season Insect Control Especially Stinkbugs by Mike Hall, LSU Pecan Research-Extension Station; Scab, Leaf Scorch and Other Fungicide Problems by Randy Sanderlin, LSU Pecan Station; Late Season Fertilizer by John Pyzner, LSU Pecan Station; and Liquid Fertilizer vs Granular Fertilizer by Levy Lord, Ouachita Fertilizer.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Pyzner". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

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