



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

EXTENSION PROGRAMS
Agriculture and Forestry
Community Leadership
Economic Development
Environmental Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Natural Resources

November 12, 2007

Number 6

PECAN CROP

The USDA October 2007 pecan crop estimate for the United States was 319.6 million pounds. This is a 113.3 million pound increase (55%) over the 2006 crop of 206.3 million pounds. The predicted crop is 65.2 million pounds above the ten year average of 254.4 million pounds.

USDA is predicting a Louisiana pecan crop at 12 million pounds. This is 9 million pounds below Louisiana's 2006 crop of 21 million pounds and 2.3 million below the state's ten year average of 14.3 million pounds.

Weather has been a problem in Louisiana this year. Heavy rains in June and July prevented many growers from spraying their orchards properly for scab disease. Extremely dry weather in August and September has caused nut filling problems in some locations and varieties. The dry weather has also prevented normal shuck split which has caused germination in the shuck in some nuts and has also caused shucks to stick to the shell of many pecans.

HARVEST

The pecan crop appeared to be maturing early; however, lack of soil moisture appeared to have delayed opening of shucks on some varieties.

Pecans should be harvested as soon as feasible. A lot of things can happen to pecans in the orchard. This is especially true once they are on the ground. Loss from wet weather can be a serious problem in some years. Wet pecans can deteriorate rapidly on the

ground if the weather remains warm. Heavy rains and floods can also wash pecans away. Excessive loss to squirrels, crows and other critters can occur. It has also been shown that stinkbugs can penetrate the shell of pecans after nut drop which could cause kernel spotting.

MOISTURE

Early harvested pecans often have a lot of moisture in the kernels. This factor, added to humid conditions, can cause problems with embryo rot. Pecans should be dried to 5 - 6 percent moisture (or 4.5 - 3.0% for long-term storage). Pecan buyers usually buy pecans at 6% moisture.

PECAN PRICES

The Louisiana Agriculture Statistics Service has reported that pecan statewide harvest was around 69% completed this past week. They also reported that deliveries were moderate while demand was fairly light. The statistical service reported that good quality natives were bringing \$0.45 per pound to growers for in-shell lots of less than 1,000 pounds.

There is traditionally high demand for good quality pecans to use in gift pack and fundraising markets early in the season. The price usually declines slowly until about a week before Thanksgiving, when most of the gift pack buyers will quit buying, and commercial shellers become the primary buyers. The large pecan crop in Georgia has appeared to cause the prices for in-shell gift box quality pecans prices to drop more rapidly than normal.

Dr. Jose Pena, professor and extension economist-management at Texas A&M University, indicated in an article in the November 2007 issue of *Pecan South* that the 2007 pecan market may falter slightly but should remain relatively strong, especially since the United States economy is prospering. He indicated that a 320 million pound crop plus 74 million pound carry-over provides 394 million pounds of available supplies which does not appear to be excessive. A National Pecan Sheller Association article in October 2007 issue of *Pecan South* stated that Dan Zedan, a member of the NPSA that tracks pecan statistics, estimated that United States consumed 396 million pounds of pecans last year. Dr. Pena stated that Mexico has a good crop which could affect pecan prices; however, he believes the impact will probably not be major.

The USDA Federal-State Market News Service provides a free online market report for pecans at Thomasville, GA; Baton Rouge, LA; Austin, TX; Phoenix, AZ and Oklahoma City, Ok. The report is available at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mncs/shipnut.htm>. The price quotes may give prices per point. Points refer to percent shell-out for pecans. Pecans with a 48 percent shell-out selling at \$2.50 a point will bring \$1.20 per pound in-shell ($2.50 \times 0.48 = 1.20$). Unit counts refer to the number of nuts per pound.

2007-2008 LOUISIANA STATE PECAN SHOW

This year's Louisiana State Pecan Show will be held in West Monroe during Ag Expo in the Ike Hamilton Center, January 18 - 19, 2008. The show will have high visibility at Ag Expo, which has an attendance of approximately 8,000. It is an excellent opportunity for promoting Louisiana pecans. A list of show participants selling pecans will be developed. The list will be available to indicate potential pecan sources to pecan buyers until January 2009. Growers are encouraged to participate in the show. Growers are also invited to share their knowledge with show visitors at Ag Expo.

The display and literature at the show will provide information about the health benefits of eating pecans. Non dessert pecan recipes will be provided to pecan show attendees to encourage the healthy use of pecans in a person's diet.

Show variety winners will also be exhibited at SW Louisiana Garden Festival in Lake Charles in March and at the Pecan Producers and Pecan Growers annual conferences in June.

Requirements for entering the show, divisions of the show and suggestions on selecting and handling pecans for the show are included with this newsletter. Yard tree growers as well as commercial growers are encouraged to participate with their pecans.

If additional show information is needed, please contact me at jpyzner@agcenter.lsu.edu, (318)797-8034 or (318)537-0583.

Sincerely,



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

This newsletter (included materials, such as the information for submitting pecans to the pecan show), can be found on our website, http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Pecan/, under the In A Nutshell Newsletter link.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING THE LOUISIANA STATE PECAN SHOW
Ag Expo in the Ike Hamilton Center in West Monroe, January 18 - 19, 2008

1. Pecan exhibits must be turned in to John Pyzner at the Pecan Research-Extension Station, P.O. Box 5519, Shreveport, LA 71135. (mailing address) Physical address: 10300 Harts Island Road, Shreveport, LA 71115 (UPS and FedEx deliveries) by **January 10, 2008**.
2. Pecans must be of current year's crop.
3. Exhibitors must have grown their entries.
4. An entry must be 40 nuts.
5. An entry may come from one or more trees, but must be of one cultivar (a pecan tree that has been named and is commercially propagated - a cultivated variety).
6. An individual may enter as many different cultivars as he/she wishes.
7. Any individual may enter regardless of the number of producing trees he or she owns.
8. Individuals should know the name of the cultivars they are entering, or if they are hybrids or native.
9. An exhibitor may enter as many native pecan entries as he/she wishes; however, each tree can have only one entry, and each entry must be from an individual tree that is identified by a name, number or letter number combination of the owner's choosing; for example (DE23).

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR ENTRY

1. Grower's name and address.
2. Parish pecans grown in.
3. Name of cultivar or name of parent cultivars and appropriate identification number for known hybrids or tree identification number for native.
4. Indicate if grower is retailing and/or wholesaling pecans. (This is for the list of pecan sources.)

In-shell Cultivar - A cultivar that has less than 55 nuts per pound listed in Division I. In-shell pecans are suitable for sale in the shell.

Shelling Cultivar - A cultivar that has more than 55 nuts per pound listed in Division II. Shelling pecans are suitable for sale as shelled pecans.

Known Hybrid - A hybrid pecan that has not been named, but for which both parents are known. This includes those pecans commonly referred to as "USDA Crosses." The parents and identification number must be listed on the entry card.

Native - All unnamed pecan trees that have at least one unknown parent. This division will include cultivar seedlings. The division will be divided into large natives (less than 60 nuts per pound), medium natives (60-100 nuts per pound) and small native (more than 100 nuts per pound).

DIVISION OF CULTIVARS IN A PECAN SHOW

DIVISION I

101 Barton
201 Branch
301 Cape Fear
401 Centennial
501 Choctaw
601 Creek
701 Desirable
801 Forkert
901 Gloria Grande
1001 Jackson
1101 Kiowa
1201 Mahan
1301 Maramec
1401 Mohawk
1501 Nacono
1601 Oconee
1701 Owens
1801 Pawnee
1901 PE-Cou-2
2001 Podsednik
2101 Schley
2201 Shawnee
2301 Shoshoni
2401 Stuart
2501 Success
2601 Sumner
2701 Wichita
2801 Known Hybrids
2901 Other In-shell Pecans

DIVISION II

4101 Caddo
4202 Candy
4301 Caspiana
4401 Cheyenne
4501 Chickasaw
4601 Curtis
4701 Elliott
4801 Farley
4901 Gafford
5001 Jennings
5101 Jenkins
5201 McMillan
5301 Melrose
5401 Moneymaker
5501 Moreland
5601 Moore
5701 Pabst
5801 Sioux
5901 Syrup Mill
6001 Van Deman
6101 Known Hybrids
6201 Other Shelling Pecans

Division III

7101 Large Native
7201 Medium Native
7301 Small Native

____ Largest Pecan Entry
____ Smallest Pecan Entry

SUGGESTIONS ON SELECTING AND HANDLING PECANS FOR SHOW

1. Select nuts that are mature, uniform in size, color and representative of the cultivar.
2. Picking mature nuts from the tree may avoid soil and moisture discoloration.
3. Select nuts that are free of insect and disease damage.
4. Weighing or briefly floating nuts can help identify light and heavy nuts; however, wetting the nuts may cause discoloration of the shells and kernels. Spreading the nuts out on a paper towel to dry will reduce the chance of discoloration.
5. Nuts should be free of dirt, dust and shuck remnants; however, they should not be buffed or polished to where the shape and color markings are altered.
6. Nuts removed from the shucks too early may not be mature and may have white areas on the shells.
7. Select the largest nuts that are uniform in size.
8. Select the heaviest nuts for each entry.
9. After nuts have been selected, place them in a ventilated bag and store at room temperature.
10. The major criteria for judging pecans are:
 - A. Whole nuts
 1. Uniform in size and true to cultivar type.
 2. Free of defects.
 3. Appearance and shell color.
 4. Number of nuts per pound.
 - B. Kernel quality
 1. Percentage of kernel.
 2. Color (the lighter the better).
 3. General appearance (free from defects, insect and disease damage).
 4. Texture.