



Texas AgriLife Extension TEXAS PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



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**This newsletter is being supported by
your TEXAS PECAN GROWERS
ASSOCIATION
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<http://www.tpga.org>**

Anyone wanting this newsletter by email please send me a note at the above address and I'll put you on the list. If anyone has had an address change from a rural route box number to a 911 address please let me know so I can make the change. Also, if you change email servers you will need to let me know. I have had to drop several producers because of returned letters with incorrect/old addresses and returned email notices.

GENERAL

It is hard to believe that another season is already here. Ready or not, bud break is occurring in the Bryan/College Station area and we are off and running for the 2010 season, hopefully which will be better than 2009. This is the first newsletter for 2010 with additional letters written through the growing season. This letter will address current and upcoming pest situations, provide meeting announcements and crop conditions. If there are any particular topics relating to pest management that you would like to see addressed in this letter please send me a note or give me a call.

NEW FROM TPGA AND PECAN SOUTH

Starting around the first of April there will be a searchable archives option on the TPGA website (<http://www.tpga.org>) for Pecan South articles. This option will be available for paid up TPGA members and Pecan South subscribers. Currently the online archives go back through 2007 but there are plans to add additional years. Articles can be searched by topic (ex. aphids) or by author.

SPRAYER CALIBRATION

This is the time of year when you need to send some time checking the calibration of your sprayer. Time spent on sprayer maintenance and calibration is time well spent.

INSECTS

Phylloxera For producers that had phylloxera problems (galls, knots, swellings, etc) on new growth last year, treatment time for this pest is after bud break when new growth is approximately ¾ to 1 inch. One application at this time should be sufficient to eliminate most galls. Only trees which showed galls last spring will need to be treated. Contact insecticides or imidacloprid based insecticides should do well. Check labels for grazing restrictions and re-entry intervals.

Sawfly: Soon after leaf expansion sawfly activity will become visible. Depending on the species, sawfly larvae will make holes in the leaflets or eat away portions of the

leaflet. I tend to refer to this damage as “visual discomfort” for there is only one generation per season and damage is more unsightly than economic. However, I have on a rare occasion seen too much damage IF an insecticide is needed a contact material should be used.

Pecan nut casebearer

For producers in the southern part of the state, PNC pheromone traps should go out during the first week of April. Running PNC traps is the best way to know what is happening with PNC in your orchard. Additional information on PNC activity can be found on the pecanipmpipe web site (<http://pecan.ipmpipe.org>). At this site volunteer producers from across Texas and other pecan states report trap catch data and prediction dates for decision making are posted. If you are running your own traps you can use <http://pncforecast.tamu.edu> to make your own predictions.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Two new information resources that have become available are - a searchable insecticide data base and library on the <http://pecan.ipmpipe.org> web site. Insecticides can be searched by active ingredient, class/mode of action, pest, OMRI approved and manufacture. The library can be searched by format, author or key word. Currently most articles in the library are proceedings from National Pecan Scientist meetings along with some Extension publications. The library references will increase over time.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR 2010

In addition to monitoring pecan nut casebearer activity and validating prediction models, here are a few other areas that the pecan IPM group will be working on

Invasive ants: There are two species of invasive ants that we are watching, these being the Argentine ant and the Raspberry Crazy Ant (RCA). At this time these two species are not in any commercial orchard and we are unsure of what impact these ants

will have in an agricultural setting. The following is a little background on the RCA.

The Raspberry crazy ant (RCA) (*Nylanderia sp* near *pubans* – * genus name has been changed from *Paratrechina*) was discovered in Texas in 2002 near Houston when Tom Rasberry, a professional pest management provider from Pearland discovered huge numbers of a new pest ant near Pasadena, TX in Harris County. Over the eight years since its initial discovery this ant has now spread to 13 additional Texas counties. The RCA is a social insect that lives in large colonies or groups of colonies that seem to be indistinguishable from one another. Colonies will have many queens, worker ants and brood consisting of larval and pupal stages. Rasberry crazy ant foraging trails are quite apparent, sometimes several inches wide and individual ants forage erratically, hence the typical reference to "crazy" ant. Foraging trails will often follow structural guidelines, however, large trails can be found in open areas. In the spring, foraging activity begins and colonies grow, producing millions of workers that increase dramatically by mid-summer (July-August) and remaining high through fall (October-November).

Rasberry crazy ants eat almost anything and worker ants commonly "tend" sucking hemipterous insects such as aphids, scale insects, whiteflies, mealybugs, and other insects that excrete honeydew. Worker ants also consume other insects and other small vertebrates for protein. Since we are unsure what the impact of this ant will be in a pecan setting and not wanting to wait until there is an infestation in an orchard, we will be setting up tests using container trees (donated by Texas Pecan Nursery). These tests or observations will look at the impact of this ant on natural enemies, honey dew production and influence on blackmargined aphid density. For more information on the Raspberry crazy ant check out the Texas A&M urban entomology web site <http://UrbanEntomology.tamu.edu>

Aphid resistance monitoring to insecticides: During this past winter I have received several comments from Texas producers about less than desired aphid management from products having imidacloprid as the active ingredient. I also heard a talk on this subject at the recent Western Pecan Growers Conference. In order to see what is happening in this area I will be working with entomologist from the USDA-ARS Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center, College Station, TX to look at possible resistance levels in orchards with different known imidacloprid use. We are hoping that information obtained this summer will help us establish recommendations to keep imidacloprid products as a usable tool for aphid management.

Insecticide efficacy studies for stink bugs
I will again work with pecan entomologist from Georgia, Louisiana and Arkansas to evaluate different insecticides for efficacy against several species of stink bugs and leaffooted bugs.

COMING THIS SUMMER
A new addition of the "Field Guide to the Insects and Mites Associated With Pecan"

MEETINGS
Texas County Meetings (through April)
March 30, 2010
Central Texas Pecan Meeting
Goldthwaite, TX
Contact: Tom Guthrie @ 325-648-2650

March 31, 2010
Bastrop County Field Day
Contact: Rachel Bauer @ 512-581-7186

April 17, 2010
San Jacinto County Field Day
Contact: Aaron Sumrall @ 936-628-6407

April 21, 2010
Waller County Field Day
Contact: Cody Dennison @ 979-826-7651

April 29, 2010
Colorado/Fayette County Field Day
Contacts: Colorado Co. Kara Mathensy @ 979-732-2082 or Fayette Co., Scot Willey @ 979-968-5831

State Meetings:
May 6, 2010
Georgia Pecan Growers Association
Contact: Janice Dees @ 229-382-2187

June 17-18, 2010
Tri-State ArkLaMiss Pecan and Trade Show
Vicksburg MS
Contact: Stephen Norman @ 318-448-3139

June 20 – 22, 2010
OPGA Conference
Ardmore, OK
Contact: Janie Landgraf @ 580-795-7644

July 11-14, 2010
Texas Pecan Growers Conference
San Marcos, TX
Contact: TPGA @ 979-846-3285

June 17-18, 2010
Tri State ArkLaMiss Pecan Trade Show
Vicksburg, MS
Contact: Steven Norman 318-448-3139

June 20-22, 2010
Oklahoma Pecan Growers Conference
Ardmore, OK

July 11-14, 2010
Texas Pecan Growers Conference and Trade Show
Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center
San Marcos, TX
Contact: TPGA 979-846-3285

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