

# TEXAS PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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## GENERAL

Boy what a difference a month makes. March was one of the wettest months on record (for the area) but April was a different story.

From the orchards I have seen and reports received producers are reporting good to very good crop of clusters. However I have seen some clusters aborting and some nutlet shed. I think it is too early to say there is a "good crop". I'll have to wait until after first generation and "June drop" to feel better about the crop,

## INSECTS

**Pecan nut casebearer:**

**Aphids:**

**Buprestids:**



**Figure 1: Buprestid adult**

**Catocala:** Pecan catocala larvae should be showing up soon. These insects are the larvae of a moth and are solitary feeders. Depending on the species the larvae can be up to 3 inches. The larvae are typically dark gray in color and can be difficult to spot. Although they remain very still, when disturbed or handled they whip their bodies from side to side. Control is rarely required.

I have references to 11 species of Catocala that feed on pecan and hickory. The adult moths are often referred to as "Underwing moths" because of the often bright colors of the hind wings.



**Figure 2 Pecan catocala larvae**



**Figure 3 Adult Catacala species**

**NEW PRODUCTS**

**WHAT TO DO WITH DEAD/STRESSED TREES**

After last year's drought there are a lot of trees across the state that are dead or with a lot of dead branches. In some cases where these trees are in residential areas or in areas of high traffic there is a safety concern for dead branches will come down. I have received some questions on what to do with these trees so I presented the question to our pecan horticulturist on reviving trees with dead tops and his response was:

“Pruning dead wood is for appearance and safety (falling limbs). Otherwise pruning doesn't promote health. Water is the first necessity for recovery; then nitrogen fertilizer. Give trees plenty of time to force buds from thicker limbs. If finding green tissue under bark, give them more time. And while giving them time ....water, water, water.”

Depending on the situation, dead trees or dead limbs might need to be removed by a professional tree care company that has the equipment to deal with the situation safely. Remember these dead trees can be a safety issue and have earned the name “widow makers”.

**MEETINGS / EDUCATIONAL EVENTS**

The following are meetings and events that I'm aware of at this time:

**Texas County Field Days:**

**May 7, 2012**

San Saba County Field Day

Contact: Neal Alexander @ 325-372-5416

**State/Regional Pecan Meetings**

**June 14-15, 2012**

Tri-State Pecan Growers Conference

(LA, AR, MS)

Natchitoches, LA

Contact: Stephen Norman @ 318-448-3130

**June 21- 23, 2012**

Oklahoma Pecan Growers Conference

Norman, OK

Contact: 580-796-7644 or

[OKpecan@trinex.net](mailto:OKpecan@trinex.net)

**July 15 – 18, 2012**

**Texas Pecan Growers Conference and Trade Show**

**Embassy Suites**

**San Marcos, TX**

**Contact: TPGA @ 979-846-3285**

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