

Texas AgriLife Extension
**TEXAS PECAN PEST
MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER**

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12-4

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GENERAL

From the orchards I have visited I am still seeing a good to very good crop. However, much of the state is in dire need of a rain to keep this crop going. The Texas crop estimate given at the TriState Pecan Growers meeting on June 15 was 50 million pounds. Crop forecast from the 2012 TriState conference is listed at the end of the newsletter.

I have received some reports of second generation PNC that needed to be treated and then I have also received some reports that PNC has not been observed all season. Also, just received a report of second generation walnut caterpillar in Cuero, TX (DeWitt county).

TPGA CONFERENCE

The Texas Pecan Grower Associations annual conference and trade show is fast approaching (July 15 – 18th) so I hope you have your reservations. If you haven't, contact TPGA for registration and hotel information. Once again I will have a booth space in the exhibitors' area and invite everyone to come by for a visit. Hope to see you in San Marcos, TX, July 15 – 18th.

INSECTS

Blackmargined Aphid: Blackmargined aphids are very prevalent in most orchards as evident by the honeydew on the foliage. However, some populations are already on the decline. Management of this honeydew producing aphid is always a hot topic. When it comes to resistance, aphids, including the blackmargined aphid are primary candidates for resistance. We are currently in the second year of a two year EPA funded project to look at black margined pecan aphid resistance levels to imidacloprid here in Texas. So far through the project we have tested populations from orchards that are very sensitive to imidacloprid, - i.e. obtained very



good control and I have sampled populations that showed some resistance - i.e. control was less than desired. Imidacloprid based insecticides have the group number 4A so if you are having problems controlling aphids and have been using group 4A materials, you should change to insecticides in that have a different mode of action which will have a different “group number”. Also, where possible treat only problem areas or problem varieties in order to leave some of the aphid population unexposed to the insecticide treatment.

Black Pecan Aphid: I am seeing some isolated infestations that border on treatment levels (our treatment threshold is an average of 3 aphids per compound leaf) and this is a bit earlier than I would like to see. However, this insect also lends itself to spot treatments so if early treatments are needed, spot applications



could be possible. BPA infestations tend to start in the interior portion of the canopy and in areas of the orchard that are crowded. Look for the characteristic rectangular necrotic areas between the secondary leaf veins **AND** the presence of aphids. BPA can be found on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces.

Treatment options include those insecticides containing the active ingredient imidacloprid, which is specific for aphids, Centric, Fulfill and several broad spectrum insecticides such as dimetoate.

Check out the insecticide search for aphids under the tool box link at <http://pecan.ipmpipe.org/>

2nd Generation PNC: I’ve heard of some activity in the southern portions of the state where infestations were treated but in most orchards I have been in I’ve seen little to no damage from this generation.

Horn worms: Well this is one reason I never say never. I received two reports yesterday concerning “Walnut sphinx larvae” defoliating pecans and this is a first for me. The pointed head (outlined in yellow), grainy skin and dominant last abdominal stripe are diagnostic. If treatments are needed, then you would need to look the size of the larvae, how much damage and how wide an area. For small larvae I think products specific for caterpillars such as Bt, spinosad, Intrepid and Confirm would do well. For larger larvae then a broad spectrum insecticide would be needed. If the larvae are very large and observed leaving the tree then they are finished feeding, damage is done so no treatment might be the option.



PESTICIDE INFORMATION SOURCES: IRAC, FRAC, HRAC

I think that one of the most useful pieces of information, at least for resistance management, that has been placed on pesticide labels is the mode of action classification or “Group Number”. For insecticides this group number classification was developed by the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee or IRAC, <http://irac-online.org> which is made up of an international group of more than 150 members of the Crop Protection Industry organized by sector and region to advise on the prevention and management of insecticide resistance. Resistance as defined by IRAC is “a heritable change in the sensitivity of a pest population, reflected in the repeated failure of a product to achieve the expected level of control when used as instructed for that pest species”.

The IRAC Mode of Action (MoA) classification provides growers, advisors, extension staff, consultants and crop protection professionals with a guide to the selection of insecticides or acaricides for use in an effective and sustainable insecticide or acaricide resistance management (IRM) strategy. In the IRAC classification system there are 26 total groups with some groups having sub groups of A and B. As an example of some of the more common insecticide classes, the carbamates (ex. Carbaryl – Sevin)) are group 1A, organophosphates (ex. malathion and chlorpyrifos – Lorsban;) are in group 1B; pyrethroids (ex. esfenvalerate – Asana) are group 3A and the neonicotinoids (imidacloprid – Provado) are group 4A. A full listing of the different groups and active ingredients in each group can be found at the IRAC website under the IRAC publications link.

These “group numbers” can be found on the front of most pesticide labels. For example you might see “Group 4A insecticide” or with some products that have multiple active ingredients you could see “Group 3A, Group 4A insecticide”. These group numbers are based on the mode of action of the active ingredient so if you see two insecticide containers from different companies and both containers have group 4A insecticide you know that the two active ingredients in the products will have the same mode of action even if the active ingredients are different. In a pesticide rotation management system then rotating between two products that have the same mode of action would not be a good rotation.

This grouping of modes of action concept is also been developed for fungicides by the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee, www.frac.info and by the Herbicide Resistance Action Committee for herbicides at www.hracglobal.com.

Resistance to pesticides, whether with insects, plant pathogens or weeds is a concern for all producers. As new products are introduced to the market or as patents expire and new named products are introduced this “group number” system is an important source of information for all growers.

MEETINGS/EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

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

State/Regional Pecan Meetings

July 15 – 18, 2012

Texas Pecan Growers Conference and Trade Show

Embassy Suites

San Marcos, TX

Contact: TPGA @ 979-846-3285

September 19 – 20, 2012

Alabama Pecan Growers annual conference

Fairhope, AL

Contact: Danny Barfield: dmbchap@yahoo.com

September 21, 2012

Arizona Pecan Growers annual conference

Palo Verde Holiday Inn

Tucson, AZ

Contact: Mike Kilby: mkilby@calsmail.arizona.edu

or 520-403-4613

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

Crop Forecast for 2012 – TriState Conference, June 15, 2012

State	Millions Lbs.
AL	6.0
AR	2.0
AZ	19.0
CA	4.0
FL	1.0
GA	75.0
KS	2.0
LA	13.0
MS	2.0
MO	1.0
NM	55.0
NC	1.0
OK	33.0
SC	1.0
TX	50.0
US	265.0