For those of you that might not have heard yet, our agency has had a name change and we are now the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

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
From orchards I have visited the Texas crop looks light but I have received a few reports from west Texas of orchards with heavy crops. These west Texas orchards were orchards that froze out last year and are coming back with heavy crops.

“June drop” is occurring which is to be expected. June drop is the natural shed of nutlets that were not pollinated or are being aborted for other physiological reasons.

The windy conditions over the past couple weeks are really drying things up and we are in need of a rain in many areas of the state.

INSECTS / MITES
Phylloxera: Phylloxera galls are opening and defoliation is occurring from stem phylloxera galls breaking open. Trees will recover from the defoliation but the defoliation is a stress on the tree and limits production. Treatment time for phylloxera is just after budbreak when new growth is 1 to 2 inches.

Pecan nut casebearer: First generation infestations seemed to be light. And with a light crop I feel it will be important to monitor the second generation. Pheromone traps can be used to monitor this second generation and eggs will still be fairly easy to find. Use fresh lures and traps. By the time the second generation occurs, nutlets are bigger and larvae will only need one or two nutlets to complete development. In most years no insecticide is needed for the second generation but with a light crop, close monitoring is highly recommended.

Walnut caterpillar: On June 2nd I visited Cuero, TX (DeWitt county) to look at some heavy walnut caterpillar damage within the city. From what I have observed and a few reports received this first generation out break was heavy in Victoria and Cuero with couple other reports of activity from Lamar and Delta counties. Three can be two to three generations in Texas with the northern area of the state seeing two generations while the southern or coastal counties could see three generations.
From observations made in Cuero on June 2nd I am guessing the second generation will start the last week of June.

Some development times for walnut caterpillar are: 14 - 16 days for pupation; 5 days mating and pre-oviposition for females and 10 days incubation for eggs. Larval feeding lasts approximately 23 days.

Walnut caterpillar larvae will molt as a group on the side of the main trunk which will leave behind a mass of cast skins. These are not dead larvae!! The colony has gone back to the canopy to feed.

This insect is easy to control with most insecticides, the important thing is to catch infestations early.

Fall webworm: The unsightly webs from the first generation fall webworms are common on pecans. Management of this insect can consist of: 1 – removing webs; 2 – tearing open webs to allow easier access of predators and parasites and 3 – application of an insecticide. There are several generations of webworms per season and there is nothing that can be done to prevent re-infestation from later generations.

Insecticides containing Bacillus thuringiensis or Bt are recommended for the urban area because of the safety factor. I rarely see webworms as a problem in commercial orchards.

Grasshoppers: I have not received any reports yet concerning grasshoppers but as it gets drier problems could arise. If treatments for grasshopper are needed, treat the tree, orchard floor and surrounding fence lines and ditches. Insect growth regulating products such as Dimilin work well on immatures but not adults. If only adults are being observed, a contact insecticide will be needed.

Mites: Pecan leaf scorch mites do well under hot dry conditions and a few reports of mite problems have been received. Scorch mites will be found on the under side of the leaf along the mid-vein. Scorch mite feeding causes a bronzing of the foliage along the main leaf vein and should not be confused with “leaf scorch” which starts on the outer margin and tip of the leaflets and will have a distinct border between healthy tissue and scorch area.
Watch for trees that are dropping leaves and check for mites on the dropped foliage and foliage on the tree. Signs of mites will include a bronzing of the foliage and cast skins attached to the leaflets.

**HOMEOWNER - FYI**
While checking out the insecticide shelf at my local Walmart I checked the label on an insecticide called Triazicide and found this insecticide is labeled for pecan. The brand is Spectracide and the insecticide is “Triazicide Once and Done” The active ingredient is gamma - cyhalothrin and for pecan it is labeled for stink bugs, hickory shuckworm, pecan weevil, pecan casebearer species, spittle bug, pecan aphid species and pecan phylloxera. The use rate is 0.5 ounce (1 table spoon) per gallon. The pre harvest interval is 14 days.

**ORGANIC PECAN MEETING**
For those producers interested in organic production of pecans there will be an organic meeting on June 20th near Lampkin, TX which is in Comanche county near the Comanche/Hamilton county line. For more information in the meeting and a list of speakers go to the Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners web site at [www.tofga.org](http://www.tofga.org).

**PECAN WEEVIL MEETING REMINDER**
Over the past couple years there have been some reports of pecan weevil activity in west Texas and to address this problem a pecan weevil management meeting has been set for July 23 in Gaines county. Meeting time and location will be published in a later newsletter.

**MEETINGS**
**Texas counties:**
July 23, 2008
Gaines County Pecan Weevil meeting
Contact: Ms Manda Cattaneo @ 432-758-8193

**State Meetings**
**June 13-14, 2008**
Louisiana pecan Growers
Contact: 318-932-8912

**June 29 - July 1, 2008**
Oklahoma Pecan Growers conference
Contact: Bob Knight @ [Knutnet@aol.com](mailto:Knutnet@aol.com)

**July 13-16, 2008**
**TEXAS PECAN GROWERS CONFERENCE**
CONTACT: TPGA @ 979-846-3285

**July 24-25, 2008**
Tri-state meeting with:
Pecan Producers of LA, Mississippi PGA and Arkansas PGA in Vicksburg, MS

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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.
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