

Issues In Agriculture

The Newsletter About Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley

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Announcements

You are invited to the **2008 pecan field day** to be held on Wednesday May 7 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) at MBM Farms, 16900 Island Tornillo Rd., Fabens, TX 79838. Topics to be discussed: Pecan Nut Casebearer, the Pecan Weevil Monitoring Program, and Pecan Better Management Practices. To get there take I-10 East to Fabens Exit, go South on Fabens Rd, pass Fabens town and continue on Fabens Rd. Turn left on Island Tornillo Rd. and continue for 0.5 miles. MBM Farms entrance will be on your right hand side. The cost for attending the program is \$10.00. A total of 3 CEUs will be given to Pesticide Applicators. Please RSVP at (915) 851-2515 ext 231 with Dr. Jaime Iglesias.

Cotton growers interested in **scouting services** should contact me as soon as possible to reserve a spot in our scouting program for this summer. The cost of participating in the program will be \$5.00/acre, but fields smaller than 20 acres will be accepted into the program under special arrangements. Participating growers will receive weekly field inspections along with the corresponding scouting reports. Monitoring pest activity and density is the base of any successful integrated pest management program. If you have not hired a crop consultant yet, participating in this program will be an extremely valuable tool to know the pest status of your fields and make economically sound pest management decisions. To register or to obtain more information on this service, please call the Extension Office at (915) 851-2515. If I am not at the office, you can talk with Mrs. Claire Hill, our IPM-Secretary.

Cotton Scout School will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2007 at the Texas Agricultural Research Center in El Paso (10:00 AM to 12:30 PM). You or your cotton scouts are invited to attend this training to refresh skills/knowledge and learn about scouting techniques, identification, biology, and management of cotton pests and beneficial arthropods. There will be a classroom session followed by a field trip. Call our office at 851-2515. Event content and schedule will be posted later.

PECAN:

Today (Monday, May 2nd), I observed the first PNC (pecan nut casebearer) moths 3 miles west of Tornillo. I have a total of 38 PNC traps located at several pecan farms in the Upper and Lower El Paso Valleys. Dr. Jaime Iglesias has kindly offered to help checking the Upper Valley PNC traps. Last year, we had our first moth catches in the Clint/Fabens area. However, this year, my traps there have not caught PNC moths as of today. We are now entering the most critical period for PNC management. Pecan nut casebearer is the key insect pest in far west Texas, Right now, it is too early for insecticide applications. You should aim your first -and maybe only- pesticide application against PNC larva before it enters the nut. If you direct your control efforts against the moths, most likely, you will need to make a second insecticide application.

There are two excellent sites for PNC information and prediction:

1. **The Pecan Kernel** (<http://pecankernel.tamu.edu/>). This site contains tons of information and nice photographs. A Texas map which is continuously updated is offered as a guide to determine the *treatment decision window* in your county.
2. **The Pecan Nut Casebearer Forecast System** (<http://pncforecast.tamu.edu/>). This is also a very complete site. It allows Texas and Oklahoma growers to make their own forecast. You just need to login as a guest, select your county, and input the date of first sustained moth capture. For instance, if you use May 5 as the date for first sustained moth flight, the system gives the following information:

Begin scouting on the dates of 25-50% oviposition. If egg numbers do not reach a treatment threshold, return and scout for eggs and larvae again on the dates of 50-75% oviposition. If eggs

| Forecasted Event Dates | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Percent Oviposition | Date |
| 10% | May 14 |
| 25% | May 16 |
| 50% | May 19 |
| 75% | May 21 |
| 90% | May 24 |

and larvae numbers are still below threshold, scout a third time on the dates of 75-90% oviposition to determine if casebearer infestations have increased to a threshold level justifying an insecticide treatment. The date of first nut entry is the date when the first pecan nut casebearer larvae are expected to begin tunneling into nutlets. If egg numbers exceed the treatment threshold, an insecticide spray is best timed just before the date of first nut entry. Plan orchard spraying so that all trees have been treated on or before this date.

| |
|-----------------------------|
| First Nut Entry : May 24 |
|-----------------------------|

I would suggest that you enter your own first significant moth flight date based on moth captures in your own farm to make better predictions. Make sure that your scouts know precisely how to identify this pest because there are some other look-alike moths that may cause confusion.

Most pecan growers in the region treat every year, but you may decide that it is more economic not to treat if the potential yield reduction by PNC is less than 1%.

The following table includes some of the most commonly used insecticides for PNC control in Texas.

| Insecticides | Rate | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Per 100 gallons | Per acre |
| <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> or BT | | |
| Javelin® WG | | 1-4 pt |
| Dipel® ES | | 1-4 lb |
| Carbaryl: | | |
| Sevin® 80S | 2.5-6.25 lb | |
| Sevin® 4F | 2.5 qt | |
| Sevin® XLR Plus | 2 - 5 qt | |
| Chlorpyrifos | | |
| Lorsban® 4E | | 1.5-4 pt |
| Lorsban® 50W | 1 lb | |
| Lambda-cyhalothrin | | |
| Warrior II | | 1.28-2.56 fl oz |
| Malathion | | |
| Malathion® 57% EC | 1-2 pt | |
| Methoxyfenozide | | |
| Intrepid® 2F | | 4-8 fl oz |
| Phosmet | | |
| Imidan® 70W | 2-3.12 lb | |
| Spinosad | | |
| Entrust® | 0.3-0.75 oz | 1.25-3 oz |
| SpinTor® 2SC | 1-2.5 fl oz | 4-10 fl oz |
| Tebufenozide | | |
| Confim® 2F | | 8-16 fl oz |
| Zeta-cypermethrin | | |
| Mustang® | | 2.8-4.3 oz |
| Mustang Max® | | 3.2-4 oz |

Note: the use of organophosphate or carbamate insecticides may result in greater aphid problems due to their impact on beneficial aphid predators and parasites.

COTTON:

Most fields are planted and at cotyledon stage. Although early season pests are not usually very damaging in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, seedlings should be monitored for thrips damage.

This year, we have three replicated cotton variety trials: a pima trial near Clint containing 4 varieties; an upland Bt/Roundup ready trial with 4 varieties near Fort Hancock; and an upland Bt/Roundup Flex trial containing 13 varieties in La Esperanza.