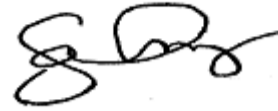


Issues In Agriculture

The Newsletter About Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley

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Announcements:

A presentation and board meeting will be held by the Texas Pecan Board on Tuesday, November 11, 2003 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. TAES is located at 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, Texas 79927. The Texas Pecan Board collects and allocates the Check-Off funds and will be featuring information on the program with the presentation "Your ½ penny at Work in the Texas Pecan Check-off."

Lunch will be provided by the Charles Ivey Farm in honor of late Texas Pecan Board Member and industry promoter, Michael Moros. This meeting is open to all West Texas Pecan Growers, Buyers, Shellers and Processors. For more information, please contact Craig Ivey @ (915)764-2296.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cotton:

YIPPEE, HARVEST IS GOING GREAT! We did have a slow start with the little bit of rain 2 weeks ago, but once things dried out we have had nothing but beautiful weather. Our rain gauges (placed from Acala to El Paso) measured an even 0.7"-0.8" of rain for the whole valley. This rain was enough to wash away any honeydew that may have accumulated on open lint; a great benefit to those who might have had whitefly populations at thresholds. While that rain protected cotton ready to be harvested, I would urge any growers with late crops to think about terminating before populations have a chance to build up again.



Pecans:

Pecan harvest is not that far away as I expect trees to really start dropping their leaves soon. It is getting cooler at night and the pecan husks are starting to split, soon pecans will be dropping. Now that we are starting to think about harvesting, growers might want to survey their orchards for hickory shuckworm (HSW). I sampled select orchards last year for HSW and found none. I know they have been trapped in this area in years past, and you might want to sample your orchard. For those interested the following paragraph outlines sampling technique.

The hickory shuckworm larvae is responsible for the damage to the pecan. Larvae tunnel into the shuck usually during the water-gel stage, interrupting the flow of nutrients needed for normal kernel development. This disruption results in scarred, late maturing and poor quality kernels.



Infested shucks usually result in sticktights, which also reduce harvesting efficiency. According to an article in Pecan South it is important to scout for shuckworm prior to harvesting. To do this collect 50-100 nuts (with intact shuck), remove the nut from the shuck, note if the shuck was attacked. Evidence of shuckworm in the shuck can be: larvae themselves, exit holes and pupal cases. If you do find evidence of shuckworm, take time to look at the kernel to determine if it was damaged by HSW.

Hickory shuckworm overwinters as mature larvae in the shucks left on the tree and on the ground. So, by monitoring to see if there is any infestation you could help prevent an infestation next year. If you find larvae that you think may be shuckworm and would like a second opinion please do not hesitate to drop it by the office.

RAIN/MOISTURE RECEIVED AS OF OCTOBER 22, 2003:
Reported by Rio Bravo Farms in Tornillo, Texas

7.34 inches

We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities to any of our meetings. We request that you contact the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at (915) 859-7725, one week in advance to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service you will require. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

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