

Issues In Agriculture

The Newsletter About Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley

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Announcements:

Beltwide Cotton Conference San Antonio, TX

January 5-9, 2004

The National Cotton Council's Beltwide Cotton Conference will be held in San Antonio this year. I would urge producers to attend this meeting if possible. There is a wealth of knowledge being traded at this meeting and not only provides excellent opportunities to garner additional knowledge but to meet cotton producers and researchers from around the nation. If you would like more information on this meeting please see the National Cotton Council's website: www.cotton.org.

Cotton:

Harvest is wrapping up and the yield reports I have heard are looking very good. Our variety trials have been harvested and the information should be available for next month's newsletter.



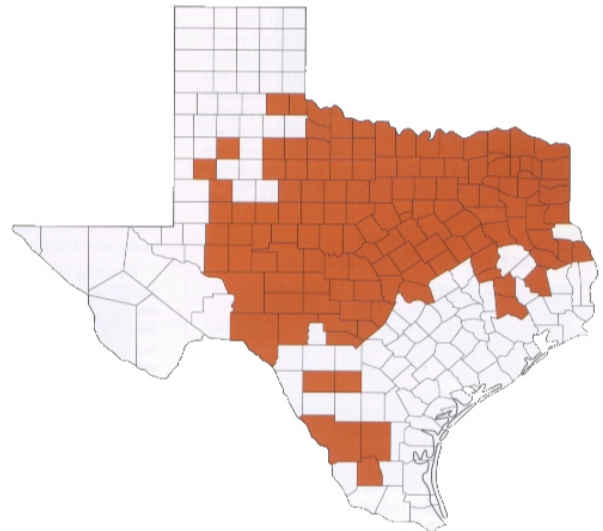
Pecans:

Last newsletter I thought that the leaves would soon be dropping and one month later we indeed have had at least one hard freeze and the leaves are cascading off the trees.

It is time for my annual lecture on pecan weevil. We **DO NOT** have pecan weevil in the El Paso Valley and we **DO NOT** want pecan weevil. This pest is extremely hard to detect early and once established can reduce yields by as much as 80% in uncontrolled areas.

Tell tale signs of a pecan weevil infestation are small perfectly round holes (usually only one per pecan) about the size of a bb. This hole is the point from which the weevil larvae tunneled out to fall to the ground to pupate. Exit holes in pecans are often the first way an infestation is located. The pecan weevil life cycle is over two years long, and once the larvae have tunneled out of the nut they pupate in the ground for two years before emerging as adults.

The most common way for this pest to move to new areas is via equipment from weevil infested areas. Therefore, if you are purchasing used equipment or bringing in a contractor please be very careful from where they are coming.



Counties infested with pecan weevil in Texas

Equipment coming from infested areas should be completely free from any nuts or trash that might harbor larvae. It is very important that we keep this pest out of our valley. For additional information on pecan weevil please contact our office at 859-7725. Flyers with photographs of the larva, adult and exit hole are available to any interested parties.



Bill Ree, Pecan IPM Extension Agent, has asked me to help him with a statewide survey of pecan orchards. He is interested in the incidence of stink bugs or leaf footed bugs in our area and has requested a polling of producers, shellers and whom ever else might be interested. The following information is from the survey.

It is known that several species of stink bugs and leaffooted bugs attack pecan nuts by piercing through the shell and causing damage to the kernel reducing kernel quality. This reduction of kernel quality results in a reduction of price at the time selling your annual crop production. It is important to evaluate the economic impact of this insect on pecan production in order to develop better programs, therefore better management of this insect in your crops. All the information generated from this survey is confidential and data obtained will be tabulated and summarized and later reported. Any personal information included in the survey will be confidential.

What you should know about stink bugs and leaffooted bugs?

The adults of stink bugs and leaffooted bugs have piercing/sucking mouth parts and feed on plant juices. Feeding by adult stink bugs prior shell hardening results in a condition known as "black pit" and will cause nuts to abort. After shell hardening, nuts stay on the tree but black spots form on the kernel at the feeding site. Kernels with black spots have a bitter taste and are considered inedible. Several species of leaffooted bugs are associated with pecan and adult can also cause "black pit" as well. After shell hardening, it is thought that feeding by leaffooted bugs is restricted to the shuck with little or no kernel spotting.

I had not heard of any reports of either insect causing damage in orchards in the El Paso Valley, but if you are interested in this statewide survey please go to the website listed above or to the Entomology home page @ <http://insects.tamu.edu> and click on the link titled "Stink bugs and leaffooted bugs in pecan orchards".

RAIN/MOISTURE RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 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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