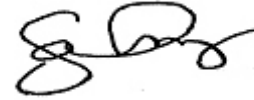


Issues In Agriculture

The Newsletter About Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley

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Announcements:

The El Paso County office has a new phone protocol. There is no longer a receptionist to answer phone calls and all calls will be answered by an automated system. The phone number will remain the same. The new automated phone system will direct you to a personnel directory or to an extension number. If you would like to speak with me, the extension number is 239 and you may enter it at any time. If I am not available and you would like to speak with my secretary, Kim, please enter extension 238. If I am not available, please leave a message with your name and phone number. I will check voice-mail as often as possible to retrieve any messages. I apologize for any inconvenience that this might cause anyone, but it looks to be permanent.

Beltwide Cotton Conference New Orleans, LA January 4-7, 2005

The National Cotton Council's Beltwide Cotton Conference will be held in New Orleans, LA this year. I would urge producers to attend this meeting if possible. There is a wealth of knowledge being traded at this meeting. It not only provides excellent opportunities to garner additional knowledge but also meets 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.

Pesticide Applicator Training January 12, 2005 TDA CEUs

The annual pesticide applicator training workshop will be held on January 12, 2005 at the Ysleta Cultural Arts Center in El Paso. This is the *perfect opportunity* to get 5 CEUs in one day and eat a steak lunch, all for just \$30 pre-registration! There will be a flyer mailed out at the end of the month just to remind everyone about this excellent opportunity. For more information, please contact the Texas Cooperative Extension Office @ 859-7725 ext 238 or ext 239.



Cotton:

Harvest is finally wrapping up as long as we don't get any more rain in the next couple days. Our variety trials have been harvested and the information should be available for next month's newsletter. Yields in the valley are reported as average.

Pecans:

Pecans are ready to be harvested. Most producers are having a hard time with wet fields at this point. Once the orchard floors have dried up enough for harvest I expect to hear more about yields, etc.

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. Early detection for this pest is extremely hard and once established can reduce yields by as much as 80% in uncontrolled areas.

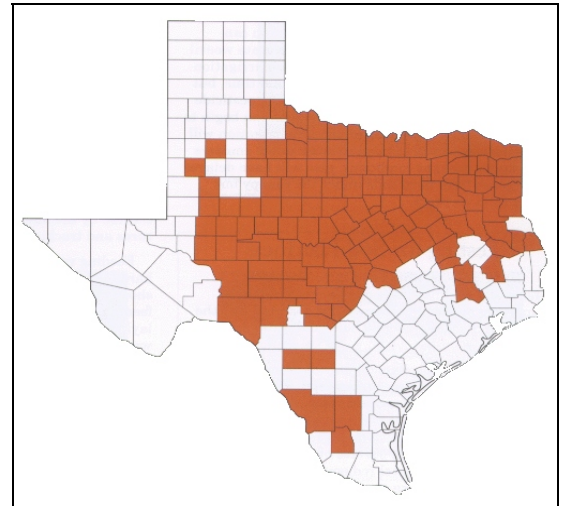


Tell tale signs of a pecan weevil infestation are small, perfectly round holes (usually only one per pecan) about the size of a bb. This

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 sign of infestation. 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 where they are coming.

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.



Counties infested with pecan weevil in Texas

RAIN/MOISTURE RECEIVED AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2004:

DEPUTY FARMS: 9.75"

RIO BRAVO FARMS: 11.43"

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

