

## Issues in Agriculture

*The Newsletter about Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

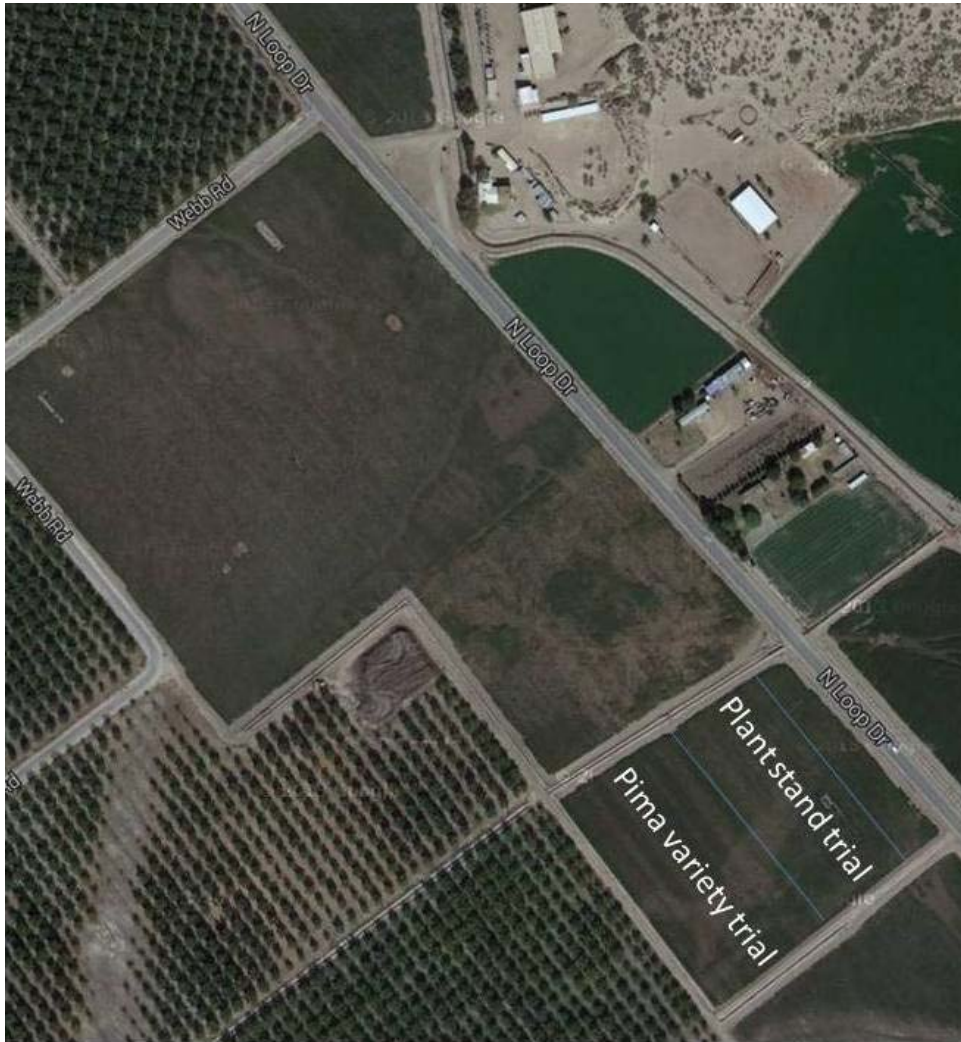
- You can download this and other IPM newsletters, check updates, and view upcoming events at the El Paso Texas A&M AgriLife Extension IPM website: <http://elp.tamu.edu/integrated-pest-management/>
- **Gardening 101 Workshop Series:** All workshops are free of charge and will be held at the Multipurpose Center on 9301 Viscount. On June 6, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM, the topic of discussion will be bugs in your garden. Information: Denise Rodriguez Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (915) 860-2515.
- **Texas Pecan Growers Association Annual Conference & Trade Show:** July 13-16, 2014. Embassy Suites, San Marcos, TX. Contact TPGA, 979-846-3285 or [pecans@tpga.org](mailto:pecans@tpga.org)
- **Emergency Disaster Loans:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, among 240 Texas counties, as eligible to apply for low-interest emergency disaster loans due to damages and losses caused by drought conditions from April 1, 2013 through October 31, 2013. In addition, the Small Business Administration (SBA), in an agreement with the USDA, provides Economic Injury Disaster Loans to eligible small businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers in counties that have received a disaster declaration from the Secretary of Agriculture. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration (April 23, 2014) to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses.

### COTTON:

Cotton farmers are always interested in learning about how commercially available cotton varieties perform under local management practices, soils, irrigation, and weather conditions. Growers know that the seed they plant is fundamental to a successful cotton growing operation. They need to select a variety capable of producing high quality yields, good staple length, acceptable micronaire, and other desirable plant/fiber traits. The development and commercial availability of new cotton varieties forces farmers to weigh pros and cons in seed cost, legal restrictions imposed by seed companies, weed management considerations, plant architecture, and especially lint yield and quality before deciding which variety, or varieties, to plant. Cotton growers in general rely on field evaluations of cotton varieties from impartial institutions that they can trust such as the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. AgriLife provides farmers with unbiased, reliable, scientific information. Knowing which varieties are best suited for the climatic

and soil conditions of a particular region is a crucial component of a successful farming operation. It is within this context that once again, I have established upland and pima cotton variety trials.

A 3-replicated **PIMA COTTON VARIETY TRIAL** was established on April 29 in Mr. Ramon Tirres Jr. Farm, on North Loop Dr, near Clint, El Paso County.



2014 pima variety trial		
Rep	Trt	Variety
101	1	PHY805RF
102	2	DP348
103	3	DP340
104	4	DP357
105	5	DP358
201	3	DP340
202	5	DP358
203	1	PHY805RF
204	4	DP357
205	2	DP348
301	3	DP340
302	1	PHY805RF
303	2	DP348
304	5	DP358
305	4	DP357
Plant stand density		
Rep	Trt	Variety
101	1	High (17.3 lbs)
102	2	Med. (15.3 lbs)
103	3	Low (13.1 lbs)
201	2	Med. (15.3 lbs)
202	1	High (17.3 lbs)
203	3	Low (13.1 lbs)
301	1	High (17.3 lbs)
302	3	Low (13.1 lbs)
303	2	Med. (15.3 lbs)

This trial included the following five varieties: PHY805RF, DP348, DP340, DP357, and DP358. Plots are 4-row wide containing cotton rows spaced at 40 inches with a row length of 600 feet. The first four rows in this field were planted, but left out of the test to avoid the “edge effect.”

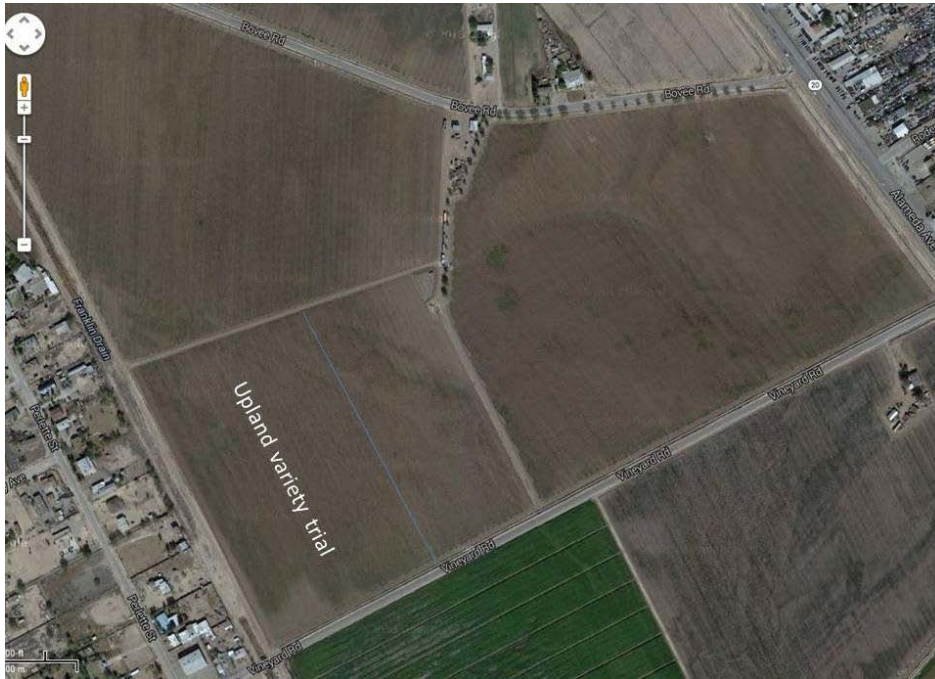
The attached plot map should be read from left to right when placing yourself in front of the southwest corner of the field. The pima variety trial and the plant stand density trial are contiguous and there are no cotton rows separating these tests.

I plan to hold turn-row meetings at this location throughout the season to discuss pest management issues, but you are welcome to visit these field trials at any time to make your own observations. The geographic coordinates for this field: 31°32'38.83"N, 106°10'45.11"W, at an elevation of 3,625 feet.

**COTTON PLANT STAND DENSITY TRIAL:** Currently, most growers use up to 30 lbs of cotton seed per acre. Last year, I found some cotton fields with a plant population of 115,000 plants per acre. Some local farmers have obtained higher yields from plots with low plant stand densities than from those planted using high seeding rates. Responding to grower’s concerns about high prices of cotton seed and as a result of previous field research which indicated that

substantial savings could be gained by planting at a lower plant stand density than what some growers traditionally use, a 3-replicated field trial was established on April 29 in Mr. Ramon Tirres' Farm near Clint. This test included the following three seeding rates: 17.3 lbs of seed/acre; 15.3 lbs of seed /acre; and 13.1 lbs of seed /acre. DP 357 was the only variety used in this test. If relatively similar yields can be obtained sowing lower seeding rates, substantial savings could be gained by using less cotton seed than what is considered standard. Plots are 8-row wide.

A 4-replicated **UPLAND COTTON VARIETY TRIAL** was planted on May 5 in Dr. Harvey Hilley Farm, on Bovee Rd, near Socorro Middle School in El Paso County. This test was planted with an 8-row wide margin and using a distance of 38 inches between rows. It includes the following 8 varieties: DP 1212 B2RF, DP 1321 B2RF, FM 2484 B2F, FM 2484 GLT, PHY 367 WRF, PHY 375 WRF, PHY 499 WRF, and ST 4946 GLB2.



2014 UPLAND VARIETY TRIAL		
PAIR	PLOT	VARIETY
1	101	DP 1212 B2RF
	102	FM 2334 GLT
2	103	DP 1321 B2RF
	104	PHY367 WRF
3	105	FM 2484 B2F
	106	PHY 499 WRF
4	107	ST 4946 GLB2
	108	PHY 375 WRF
2	201	PHY 367 WRF
	202	DP 1321 B2RF
1	203	FM 2334 GLT
	204	DP 1212 B2RF
3	205	PHY 499 WRF
	206	FM 2484 B2F
4	207	PHY 375 WRF
	208	ST 4946 GLB2
3	301	FM 2484 B2F
	302	PHY 499 WRF
4	303	ST 4946 GLB2
	304	PHY 375 WRF
1	305	DP 1212 B2RF
	306	FM 2334 GLT
2	307	DP 1321 B2RF
	308	PHY 367 WRF
4	401	PHY 375 WRF
	402	ST 4946 GLB2
1	403	FM 2334 GLT
	404	DP 1212 B2RF
3	407	PHY 499 WRF
	408	FM 2484 B2F
2	405	PHY 367 WRF
	406	DP 1321 B2RF

This location was chosen based on the fact that it has relatively uniform soils and due to considerations of irrigation availability.

The plots in this field could not be allocated completely randomized due to the fact that we used an 8-row planter and the plots are 4-row wide. Therefore, for practical reasons, the 8 varieties tested were distributed in pairs throughout the test.

The coordinates for this field are the following: 31°37'51.20"N, 106°16'53.69"W. This site has an elevation of 3,655 feet.

This test should be read from right to left with the aid of the attached plot map. Place yourself in front of the northwest corner of the field and skip the first eight cotton rows. After that, the first four rows belong to plot # 101. Immediately on your left hand side, you will find plot # 102 and so on.

A field day will be conducted prior to harvest to tour these three demonstration plots. This will allow the cotton farmers to make their own observations and draw their own conclusions.

## PECAN:

On May 7, Bill Ree, Dr. Jaime Iglesias, Steve Ivey, Carlos Perez, and I toured several pecan orchards to assess different life stages of the pecan nut casebearer (PNC) and evaluate its plant damage. We observed a wide range of PNC life stages ranging from fully developed larvae in pecan shoots, pupae, moths, and first generation eggs. This wide distribution of PNC stages may present a challenge to achieve adequate control with only one insecticide application. In a two-year-old pecan orchard south of Clint, we found a severe infestation of PNC larvae boring into new shoots. As discussed in previous

From left to right: Steve Ivey, Bill Ree, and Dr. Jaime Iglesias inspecting PNC larvae damaging pecan shoots.



newsletter issue, *“Many third- and, if present, fourth-generation larvae do not feed, but crawl to the base of a dormant bud where they build a tough, silken cocoon in which to spend the winter. In spring, these immature larvae leave their cocoons and feed by tunneling into shoots. Full-grown larvae pupate in shoot tunnels or in bark crevices. Moths from these overwintering larvae lay first-generation eggs on nutlets.”* Taken from AgriLife Extension publication *“Controlling the*

*Pecan Nut Casebearer”* by Allen Knutson and Bill Ree. It appears that this type of damage is more common in young trees than in mature ones. To reduce this damage, applications of Confirm® (tebufenozide) or Intrepid® (methoxyfenozide), at bud break, should be helpful. This year, Crop Consultants and pecan growers have observed high population levels of PNC moths. Please note that egg lay counts are usually exceeding recommended action thresholds. Insecticide applications are currently undergoing. Most growers are using Lorsban® applied by airplane. Other growers are using Intrepid® applied with ground equipment. Intrepid® has been very effective in the past with the added benefits of a two-week residual protection and reduced negative effects on the population levels of beneficial organisms.



PNC larva inside a pecan shoot

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West Texas Pecan Association  
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