

---

## Issues in Agriculture

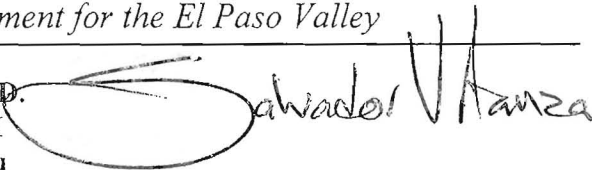
---

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

---

Volume: 35  
Issue: 3  
Date: May 10, 2010

Salvador Vitanza, Ph.D.  
Extension Agent- IPM  
[svitanza@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:svitanza@ag.tamu.edu)



---

El Paso County Ysleta Annex ☆ 9521 Socorro Rd ☆ Suite A2-Box 2 ☆ El Paso, TX 79927 ☆ Phone: (915) 860-2515 ☆ Fax: (915) 860-2536

---

## Announcements

- On May 21, I will discuss **urban pest management** problems and solutions at the Chester Jordan Elementary School, El Paso, TX 79938 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM. You are welcome to attend to find out about how to deal with commonly found pest problems such as ants, honeybees/yellowjackets (in or near houses and buildings), fleas, crickets, houseflies, fungus gnats, springtails, leafcutter bees, roaches, and other pesky creatures.
- In the following issues, the newsletter will include a section called: "**From Farmer to Farmer**" where key growers will share their experiences, accumulated through many years, and their opinions about diverse farming subjects. I am very excited about this section and think that it will be a very valuable addition to our newsletter.
- During the pecan workshop held on May 4, at Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, I distributed three updated lists of insecticides allowed in Texas against the black, black-margined, and yellow pecan aphids. Let me know if you would like to receive a copy.

### PECAN:

The scouting period for pecan nut casebearer eggs or nut entry is approaching fast. The following moth captures were kindly reported by **Rio Bravo Farms** (3 miles east of Tornillo, TX):

- **May 5:** 1, 3, 0, 0, 0 moths (5 traps)
- **May 6:** 3, 1, 10, 6, 0 moths (5 traps)
- **May 7:** 3, 30, 21, 26, 10 (5 traps)

**Note:** Each of these traps contained both a Mexican lure and a standard lure. This does not allow us to determine which PNC strain we are dealing with, but the most important data are the number of moths and date of capture because both PNC strains are managed in exactly the same manner.

The following report was kindly provided by **MBM Farms** (near Clint and Fabens, TX):

- **May 6:** 3 Mexican, 1 standard, 0, 0, 0 moths (5 traps)
- **May 7:** 1 Mexican, 0, 0, 0, 0 moths (5 traps)

In the traps that Dr. Iglesias and I have placed:

- **May 7:** 1 standard near Clint, TX in 22 traps distributed in 5 farms in the lower valley and 2 farms in the upper valley.

Based on this information, the date of sustained capture of pecan nut casebearers in pheromone traps for **Tornillo** should be considered **May 5** and for **Clint and Fabens** should be **May 6**. You need to make your own forecasts based on the pheromone traps that you have placed in your orchard. These data were reported to the managers of Pecan IPM Pipe (<http://pecan.ipmpipe.org/map/index.cfm>) and to the Pecan Nut Casebearer Forecast System (<http://pncforecast.tamu.edu/>). Their respective maps will reflect changes, for El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, in the next few days.

Using the first sustained moth capture for Tornillo and the weather station data at Ysleta, the PNC Forecast System generated the following table:

Forecasted Event Dates	
Percent Oviposition	Date
10%	13-May
25%	16-May
50%	19-May
75%	21-May
90%	24-May
First Nut Entry : May 24	
The above table gives the dates when 10, 25, 50, 75 and 90% of the first generation eggs are expected to be present in the orchard. You can use this information to decide when to scout the orchard for eggs. 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 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, the anticipated spray date is 2-3 days before the predicted date of first nut entry. This timing ensures the insecticide is present when the eggs hatch and the first young larvae begin feeding on buds. Plan orchard spraying, if needed, so that all trees are treated 2-3 days before this date.

## COTTON:

All cotton fields in our region have been planted. According to information provided by Mr. Saul Cortez, Field Unit Manager of the Texas Bollweevil Eradication Foundation, Inc., a total of 28,642 acres of cotton were planted from Esperanza to the Texas - New Mexico border. The first cotton fields planted have seedlings in cotyledon stage.

In general, April temperatures were lower than what we usually experience in our area. To illustrate this point, I compared the weather data at Mr. Ramon Tirres' Farm for the last two years. In April 2009, the average maximum daily air temperature was 89°F and the average minimum daily air temperature was 60°F. In April 2010, these values were 77.2°F and 49.5°F respectively. April 2010 was colder than April 2009 by a difference of more than 10°F. The cold temperatures at the start of planting season have had an impact on cotton plant health by increasing the incidence of seedling diseases that affect root and stem development. Due to prolonged cold weather, many growers were forced to start planting before fields reached optimal soil temperature.

Please monitor thrips population levels; especially if the weather is colder than usual. Cotton seedlings develop slowly in cold weather, allowing thrips to cause greater damage and delaying cotton maturity.

The upland cotton variety trial conducted with Mr. Harvey Hilley Jr. was planted in Esperanza on May 5. The varieties being tested are DP-164-B2RF, DP-0935-B2RF, DP-0949-B2RF, DP-1044-B2RF, DP-1048-B2RF, DP-1050-B2RF, PHY-375-WRF, PHY-565-WRF, ST-4288-B2F, FM-1740-B2F, FM-9160-B2F, FM-9170-B2F. These varieties were selected for being classified as mid-season, and having technologies against caterpillar damage and resistance to glyphosate.