

Issues in Agriculture

The Newsletter about Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley

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Salvador Vitanza, Ph.D.
Extension Agent- IPM
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
Texas AgriLife Extension El Paso County: <http://elp.tamu.edu/> Pecan IPM Pipe: <http://pecan.ipmpipe.org/> TPMA www.tpma.org/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Gardening 101 Workshop Series:** This educational program is offered to the community by a partnership between the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. It is free to the public, but you need to register, as space is limited. The workshops are taught by Extension Horticulturist (Denise Rodriguez) and El Paso Master Gardeners. All sessions are held on a Friday, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM at the Multipurpose Center (9031 Viscount Blvd.). You can register online at: <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/parks-and-recreation>, in person at the Multipurpose Center, or by phone at (915) 212-0092. The session topics include: Plant Propagation Techniques (May 9), Container Gardening (May 22), Integrated Pest Management: Bugs in your Garden (June 26), Plant Propagation (July 24), and Fall Gardening (August 28). For more information call Denise Rodriguez at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (915) 860-2515.
- **Texas Pecan Growers Association Annual Conference & Trade Show:** July 12-15, 2015. Embassy Suites, Frisco, TX. Contact TPGA at (979) 846-3285 or email pecans@tpga.org for more information. Online registration will be available at: <http://www.eply.com/TexasPecanGrowers2015>

COTTON:

Many cotton fields were planted in the past weeks and the majority of cotton seedlings have started to emerge. The last few nights have been cold resulting in delayed seedling emergence. The weather forecast now calls for much warmer temperatures; which will speed up plant development. Planting in Socorro, Clint, Fabens, and Tornillo areas is nearly finished, but planting is ongoing in other parts of Hudspeth County.

Cotton Field Evaluations: The pima cotton variety trial (six varieties replicated three times) was established on April 28 in Mr. Ramon Tirres Jr. Farm, on North Loop Dr, near Clint, in El Paso County. A test evaluating three seeding rates (17.3, 15.3, and 13.1 lbs/acre) was planted next to the pima varieties using the pima cotton variety DP 357 and containing three replications. The upland cotton variety trial (eight varieties replicated four times) will be planted tomorrow May 1st near Clint at Dr. Harvey Hilley Farm. In the next issue of this newsletter, I will provide more details about these tests, including plot maps, for those who wish to visit the cotton field evaluations and personally observe plant performance.

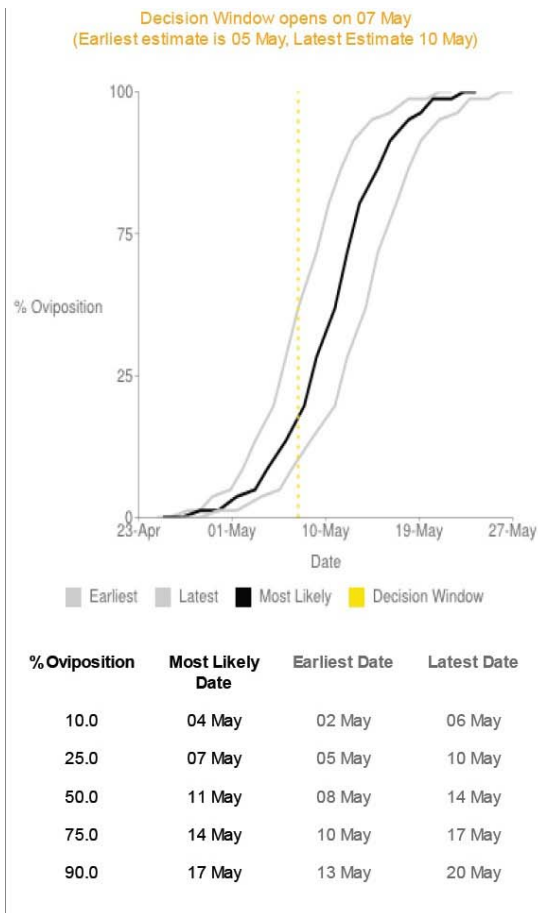
PECAN:

The main reason of mailing this newsletter today is to inform pecan growers in the region that the pecan nut casebearer (PNC) moths were first captured this year on April 23rd near Tornillo. Rio Bravo Farms

| Date | Pheromone lure | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| | Mexican | Standard |
| 4/23/2015 | 3 | 0 |
| 4/24/2015 | 28 | 9 |
| 4/26/2015 | 12 | 2 |
| 4/27/2015 | 0 | 0 |
| 4/28/2015 | 0 | 0 |
| 4/29/2015 | 51 | 13 |
| 4/30/2015 | 16 | 3 |
| Total | 110 | 27 |

kindly shared their trap data. They placed a total of twelve PNC traps: half Mexican lures and half Standard (American) lures. It can be concluded that so far they are capturing four times more PNC moths using the Mexican strain pheromone lures than in traps containing the standard lures. Their findings highlight the importance of using both types of lures to monitor PNC moths. For reference, in 2013, I had a capture efficiency (in my traps) of 15 to 1 in favor of the Mexican pheromone lures. In 2014, I did not capture any PNC moths in traps containing the standard lures. Although this year I placed my traps on April 20 in five commercial pecan farms in the El Paso Lower Valley, I have captured only three PNC moths using the Mexican lure and one using the Standard lure on April 24

in Tornillo and no moths after that date. The rest of the traps placed in Clint and Fabens have not captured any moths. Dr. Jaime Iglesias is monitoring four pecan farms, but has not found PNC moths in consecutive days. Mr. Lucio Lopez, member of the Juarez Valley’s Plant Health Local Board, placed a total of ten PNC traps along the Mexican side of the border: half Mexican lures and half Standard lures. He has not reported finding any PNC moths yet.



The attached graph is an example of possible dates to scout for PNC eggs using the Rio Bravo Farms data. They had their first PNC moths captures on April 23rd. This means that they should begin scouting their orchard for PNC eggs between May 7th and May 11th (the dates when 25-50% of all eggs are expected to be present). If they find that the PNC egg numbers are not at a treatment threshold at that time, they need to return to sample between May 11th and May 14th (the dates of 50-75% egg lay). If the numbers of eggs and larvae are still below threshold, they should scout a third and final time between May 14th and May 17th (the dates when 75-90% of the eggs are expected) to determine if PNC infestations have increased to a threshold level justifying an insecticide treatment. If PNC eggs or damage are still below threshold, then it would not be necessary to make insecticide applications at that time. However, it is advisable to continue monitoring this pest for the second and third generations later in the season. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension publication E-173 provides the following guidelines to scout for PNC eggs or nut entry: “...examine 10 nut clusters per tree. A cluster is considered infested if it has a casebearer egg or nut entry. If, on this date, you find two or more

infested clusters before 310 nut clusters are sampled, the casebearer population is large enough to damage more than 5 percent of the harvest. Apply an insecticide within the next few days.”

For detailed information on how to monitor PNC activity and make predictions or decisions on when to treat, please go to: <https://insects.tamu.edu/pnc/index.cfm>

Do not hesitate to contact me for any pest related questions or to discuss your PNC management practices.



The Texas AgriLife El Paso IPM Program is partially supported by the following organizations:

- West Texas Pecan Association
- Ag Market Resources
- El Paso Pest Management Association
- Texas Pest Management Association
- Valley Gin Company, Tornillo