
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

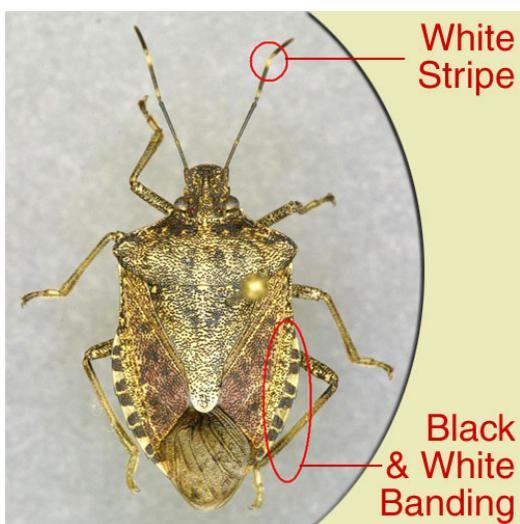
- **URGENT! LAST NOTICE:** The **2012 El Paso Pesticide Applicator Training** will be held on Tuesday January 24 at the Ysleta Cultural Arts Center, 9600 Simms (Exit I-10 @ McRae), El Paso, Texas 79925 from 7:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. This event is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas Department of Agriculture, El Paso Pest Management Association, and the Ysleta Independent School District. The cost will be \$50.00 early registration (before January 20) and \$60.00 on site registration including lunch, handouts, and other goodies. Five CEUs may be obtained for the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Structural Pest Control Service, and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, for commercial, non-commercial, and private pesticide applicators. For general information, please call Texas AgriLife Extension Service at (915) 860-2515. For licensing information, contact Mario Saavedra (TDA) at (915) 859-3942.
 - **The 2012 NM Crop Production**, January 23-24, Ruidoso, NM. For more information contact the NM Cooperative Extension Office at 505-334-9496.
 - **The 2012 NM Cotton Growers Association Conference** will be held on January 25 at the Ruidoso Convention Center, Ruidoso, NM. Registration is at 8:00-8:45 AM. The meeting will be adjourned at 4:30 PM. For more information contact Michael Ronquillo, Program Coordinator, NMSU Seed Certification Program (575) 646-4139 <http://seedcertification.nmsu.edu>
 - **The 2012 New Mexico Hay Growers Association Conference**, January 25-27, 2012. Ruidoso, NM. Contact (575) 626-5677 for more information.
 - **The 2012 New Mexico Chile Conference** is hosted by The Chile Pepper Institute and will be held at the Hotel Encanto in Las Cruces, NM on Feb 7. NMDA has awarded 2.5 pesticide applicator CEUs for individuals attending the Track 1 afternoon program. For more information contact Dr. Stephanie J. Walker, Extension Vegetable Specialist, NMSU (575) 646-4398 or visit www.chilepepperinstitute.org
 - Dr. Jaime Iglesias invites you to the **2012 Pecan Crop Conference** on Wednesday, February 22, at the Texas AgriLife Research Center. The major focus will be soil/water salinity management. From 1:00 to 6:00 PM. Certified crop advisers and licensed pesticide applicators will obtain 4 CEUs. The cost of participating in this event will be \$20.00.
 - Samuel MarineLarena, TDA Regulatory Inspector, informed us that during a meeting held by TDA and local growers on January 17 in El Paso, it was agreed that **the cotton stalk destruction deadline** remains as **February 1st**. The growers proposed to extend the deadline for the year 2013 to March 15th. This suggestion is still being reviewed. The cotton growers attending the meeting estimated that the cotton acreage for El Paso/Hudspeth Counties will be reduced approximately in half in 2012, as a consequence of the recent drought.
 - **The Farm Loan Program interest rates** for January 2012 are as follow:
 - **Farm Ownership Loans** – 3.5% Fixed: Term up to 40 years and no down payment required. Uses: real estate purchases and real estate improvements.
 - **Annual Operating Loans** –1.50% Fixed: Term up to 18 Months. Uses: feed, seed, fuel, fertilizer, stockers, etc.
 - **Term Operating Loans** –1.50% Fixed: Term up to 7 years. Uses: purchase equipment and livestock; refinance existing non real estate debt.
- The total loan applications received in 2011 were 169 corresponding to \$11,354,595 as total funding for farmers and ranchers. The average time from submitting a complete application to approval for a direct loan is 3.6 Days. For more information contact: Fort Stockton Service Center, 2306 W. Dickinson Blvd. Suite 1, Fort Stockton, Texas 79735. Phone: 432-336-5206, ext. 2.
- Bob Whitney, Agriculture Consultant and Researcher, working for the **Texas Pecan Board** reminds growers that when you sell or transfer your pecans be sure that your First Handler (buyer) remits the **1/2 cent per pound** to the Texas Pecan Board as part of the Texas Pecan Checkoff. This 1/2 cent per pound funds the research, education, and promotion programs sponsored by the Texas Pecan Board

for Texas Pecan Growers. According to Mr. Whitney, these programs are directly responsible for the high prices growers have received over the last several years and for the excellent export business that Texas growers are experiencing. If you are an exempt grower, you need to submit a Grower Exemption Form. For more information call Bob Whitney at (512) 943-2499.

- **Section 18 Label for Topguard (flutriafol):** On October 10, 2011, Dr. Thomas Isakeit submitted an application to TDA for a section 18 label for the fungicide Topguard (flutriafol), to control root rot of cotton (CRR) caused by the fungus, *Phymatotrichopsis omnivora*. This section 18 label would apply only to areas of the state where this fungus is known to occur. Both the El Paso Valley Cotton Association Inc. in Clint and the Valley Gin Company in Tornillo wrote letters of support to obtain approval of this Section 18 Label. Approval for the 2012 season is expected soon.
- **Meymik 15G is set to replace Temik** on cotton, peanuts, sugar beets, dry beans, sweet potatoes, and soybeans to control certain nematodes, insects and mites. On December 22, 2011, AgLogic L.L.C. announced the U.S. EPA Registration of MEYMIK 15 G Aldicarb Pesticide. This registration ensures continued availability of aldicarb, as a valuable crop production tool, for pest control use on registered crops. AgLogic's news release stated: *"In public comment requested by EPA, producers and grower organizations concerned about the loss of crop productivity, strongly supported responsible and continued use of aldicarb, as an incomparable, and highly effective tool for the control of devastating plant pests. The National Cotton Council, estimated the value of aldicarb to U.S. cotton growers in 2011, would have exceeded \$800 million, if just 25% of all planted U.S. cotton acres were treated. There is no single alternative product comparable to aldicarb, which can enable growers to control nematodes, mites and insects from a single at-plant or early season application. Very often the use of aldicarb can significantly increase yield and crop quality. Over 40 years of research and use have demonstrated that aldicarb provides systemic residual control, of more than 75 species of insects and mites, and at least 40 species of plant-parasitic nematodes. Soil incorporation of aldicarb granules, usually replaces the need for fumigants, and many foliar-applied insecticide sprays, thereby preventing disruption of the establishment of beneficial arthropods and other non-target species making it an ideal tool for integrated pest management. Additionally, soil incorporation of aldicarb minimizes the potential for off-site damage, and other adverse effects including unwanted pesticide spray drift on to non-target crops, and surface water bodies, that can potentially be associated with the use of alternative pesticide spray programs."*

PEST ALERTS:

- The **brown marmorated stink bug** (BMSB) was covered on June 29, 2011, in the Volume 36, Issue 4 of this IPM Newsletter. Dr. Carol Sutherland, the Extension Entomologist at NMSU and State Entomologist for NMDA, let us know that in the first week of November 2011, a pest control operator found live Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs inside an 18-wheeler in Deming, NM. The pest control operator treated the container and delivered a couple of live bugs to Dr. Sutherland on Nov 9. Hopefully these were the only BMSB and no other have spread in southern NM or far west TX. Around the same time of this finding, BMSB was also detected in Texas for the first time. In the December issue of the Pecan South magazine, Bill Ree reports that the BMSB was found in early November by a Corpus Christi pest control operator in a mobile home that had come from



Pennsylvania. Fortunately, the Texas Pecan Growers Association has provided funds for a pheromone trap survey that is being conducted by the Pecan IPM Program led by Bill Ree. It is believed that this insect arrived to Allentown Pennsylvania in 1996 and it now has spread to 34 states. According to Mary Woodsen *"The BMSB burst onto the scene in 2010, causing catastrophic damage in most mid-Atlantic states."* This pest attacks a wide range of plants including vegetables, fruits, woodland trees, ornamentals, cotton, sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, apples, and peaches, etc. Approximately 300 plant species are susceptible to BMSB. Cotton and pecan are among the hosts, but substantial damage to these crops has not been reported yet. Tracy Leskey, USDA Entomologist, estimates the damage to susceptible crops in \$21 billion. As far as I know, the BMSB

is not in El Paso yet, but its arrival could be just a matter of time. If you suspect of the presence of the BMSB, please capture the specimens and contact me as soon as possible. You can find a wealth of information about BMSB at <http://www.northeastipm.org>

- Dr. Sutherland also reported that **Bagrada bugs** have been found in Luna (Deming), Dona Ana (Las Cruces), Otero (Dog Canyon near Alamogordo), Socorro (Socorro), and Valencia Counties (Los Lunas). They have been detected attacking garden turnips, but not on any other crops yet. I have not seen them in El Paso or Hudspeth Counties. I will continue searching for them this coming season. According to Cary Blake, Western Farm Press, the Bagrada bug was first identified in the U.S. in Los Angeles County, CA in 2008. The pest quickly spread into Orange County. In the fall of 2009, the



Photo by G. Arakelian

Bagrada bug was found in the Coachella and Imperial valleys, CA and Yuma County, AZ. Then the Bagrada bug was found in cole crop fields in the low desert in southern California and southwestern Arizona in August 2009. John Palumbo, research entomologist at the Yuma Agricultural Center-University of Arizona, discovered adult Bagrada bugs on cabbage in Yuma, AZ in mid-April 2010. The Bagrada bug is a major pest of Brassica crops, including seed crops and canola. Adult and nymph suck sap from young leaves. Feeding causes small puncture marks visible as white patches on leaf edges. A heavily-attacked plant has a scorched appearance. The damage can result in plant death, plants without heads, or multiple heads. Adults are 5-

7 millimeters long with black, shield-shaped bodies and distinctive white and orange markings. More information and photos can be found at http://civr.ucr.edu/bagrada_bug.html

- Ray Prewett, the Executive Vice President at the Texas Vegetable Association, based in McAllen, recently wrote a letter addressed to Texas citrus growers summarized as follows: *“**Citrus Greening Disease** has been confirmed in the Rio Grande Valley. An APHIS team found the disease and personnel at the Citrus Center have run tests in their own lab and cooperated with the official testing lab in Beltsville. Multiple tests of the sample revealed a clear positive. We do not know how long it has been in the Valley but we can hope that it was found before it spread too far. The first step in determining how to address this disease will be for APHIS to do a delimiting survey, starting with a five mile radius around the find and then moving out an additional five miles to a ten mile radius. We know the area wide psyllid control program has been effective in significantly reducing the psyllid population levels, and we strongly encourage growers to continue these efforts and ensure that the winter dormant spray starting January 16th is applied in all their groves. To prevent additional spread of citrus greening, TDA has enacted a temporary quarantine within a five mile radius of the finds. This will impact the movement of nursery stock in the quarantined area. Our industry is facing a big challenge and I for one think we are up to the challenge. It could very well be our biggest challenge ever. As your grower organization, you can be assured that we will do everything we can to give our industry every opportunity to succeed in this endeavor.”* Effective January 13, 2012, TDA has enacted a temporary emergency quarantine for Huanglongbing (Citrus Greening) in a five mile radius from a point in San Juan, Texas. Citrus nursery stock located in the quarantined area is banned to be moved out. Citrus fruit harvested within the quarantined area must be free of leaf material and debris prior to movement outside of the area. This temporary emergency quarantine will expire on January 20, 2012.
- **Bee Parasite:** A new parasitoid affecting honeybees in northern CA and South Dakota may be contributing to “colony collapse disorder” of beehives. This finding may affect the movement of bee colonies across state lines. The deadly fly parasite was first observed on the San Francisco State University campus by Professor of Biology John Hafernik. The possibility that it is an emerging parasite *“underlines the danger that could threaten honey bee colonies throughout North America, especially given the number of states that commercial hives cross and are deployed in,”* Hafernik and colleagues write in the January 3, 2012 issue of PLoS ONE. See <http://goo.gl/W2Ok2>
- **Pecan Aphid Management:** Bill Ree and Mark Muegge published an article in the January 2012 issue of the Pecan South magazine titled *“Pecan Aphids Part 1 - Project Addressing Aphid Resistance to Imidacloprid”*. The laboratory studies that are reported in this article were conducted by Bill Ree and Dr. Juan Lopez with the USDA-ARS Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center, College Station, TX. The field studies were conducted by Drs. Mark Muegge and Salvador Vitanza with Texas AgriLife Extension in a commercial pecan orchard near Clint. They wrote: *“Results of studies recently conducted in Texas indicate that black margined aphids may be showing resistance to the commonly used neo-nicotinoid insecticide imidacloprid.”* At the end of their article they conclude: *“The laboratory and field test results clearly show that, at least in some orchards, resistance of black margined pecan aphid to the 4A class of insecticides is evident. Further studies are needed to determine the extent of this resistance issue, and efforts to reduce and reverse this problem should be undertaken.”* In the next issue of Pecan South, Bill and Mark will present the part 2 giving advice on how to reduce the problem of pecan aphid insecticide resistance.

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

El Paso Pest Management Association
Texas Pest Management Association
Valley Gin Company, Tornillo
West Texas Pecan Association

THE 2012 EL PASO PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

DATE: January 24, 2012

LOCATION: Ysleta Independent School District, 9600 Simms (Exit I-10 @ McRae),
El Paso, Texas 79925

TIME: 7:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION: \$50.00 early registration (before January 20, 2012)
\$60.00 on site registration

License holders must present a valid pesticide applicator's license or a driver's licenses to receive credit for the training.

Make checks payable to: Greater El Paso Pest Control Association (or GEPPCA).

Mail or drop at: Ysleta Annex, 9521 Socorro Rd, Suite A2- Box 2, El Paso, TX 79927.

Sponsored By: Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, El Paso Pest Management Association and Ysleta Independent School District.

AGENDA

JOINT SESSION

7:50 AM – 8:15 AM Pest report for urban and Ag in 2011 Salvador Vitanza
Extension Agent – IPM, El Paso
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

8:15 AM – 9:15 AM Weed control and herbicide resistance management Dr. Scott Nissen
Professor and Extension Weed Specialist
Colorado State University

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM Laws and Regulations Burgess Cook
Pesticide Compliance Coordinator
Texas Department of Agriculture

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM **Break**
SPLIT SESSION

GENERAL GROUP

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM Stored Product Pests for Certified Entomologists Mike Merchant
Professor & Extension Urban Entomologist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

AG GROUP

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM IPM principles, research, and demonstrations Mark Muegge
Assoc. Professor & Extension Entomologist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM **LUNCH**
SPLIT SESSION

AG GROUP:

1:00 PM-2:00 PM Worker Protection Standards Mario Saavedra
Regional Education Specialist
Texas Department of Agriculture

GENERAL GROUP:

1:00 PM-2:00 PM IPM for landscape pests Mark Muegge
Assoc. Professor & Extension Entomologist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

JOINT SESSION

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Managing Insecticide Resistance Mike Merchant
Professor & Extension Urban Entomologist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Note: Remember that you are responsible for your CEU certificates and Texas AgriLife Extension Service does not retain copies. Five CEUs may be obtained for TDA, SPCS, NMDA, commercial, non-commercial, and Private Pesticide Applicators. For general information, please call Texas AgriLife Extension Service at (915) 860-2515. For licensing information, contact Mario Saavedra (TDA) at (915) 859-3942.

We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities to any of our meetings. We request that you contact Texas AgriLife Service at (915) 860-2515, 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.