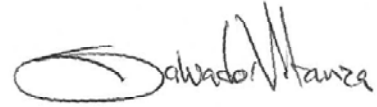


Issues in Agriculture

The Newsletter about Integrated Pest Management for the El Paso Valley

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Announcements

- **2013 Pecan Pest Management Workshop** at the Texas AgriLife Research Center, 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, TX 79927 on Thursday, June 20, from 8:30 AM to noon. Topics: pecan nut casebearer forecast and control and insecticide efficacy trials for pecan aphids (Dr. Mark Muegge), hickory shuck worm, saltcedar beetle biocontrol program, and kissing bugs (Dr. Salvador Vitanza), squirrel damage and root rot in pecans (Dr. Jaime Iglesias). For more information call 915-860-2515. Three continuing education units will be provided to licensed pesticide applicators. Cost: \$10.00. I hope to see you there!
- The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at El Paso will honor its volunteers on Friday, June 21st at the Texas AgriLife Research Center. The **Volunteer Recognition Program** will start at 2:00 PM. This event serves to show appreciation for the contribution that volunteers make to enhance the value and impact of AgriLife Extension programs.
- **Texas Pecan Growers Annual Conference and Trade Show.** July 14-17. College Station, TX. To be followed by ASHS sponsored International Pecan Symposium (July 14-20). Contact TPGA for more information, 979-846-3285 or pecans@tpga.org
- **Tri State Arkansas-Louisiana-Mississippi Pecan Trade Show and Convention.** The Tristate Pecan Convention and Trade Show will be in Vicksburg, Mississippi on June. 20-21. For further information, contact Stephen Norman 318-448-3139 or pecans@rosaliepecans.com
- **NMSU Ag Field Day.** August 14. This event is open to the public. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. The day will include field tours and presentations. Address: 1036 Miller Rd, Los Lunas, NM 87031. Contact Information: Phone: 505-865-7340. Email: mplace@nmsu.edu

GENERAL SITUATION:

It was nice to see crops quenching their thirst with recent surface water irrigation. Now we must hope for some rains to supplement soil moisture. There have been a few scattered showers, some of them with hail, and more are predicted before we quickly go back to dry weather.

COTTON:

The first-planted fields have developed squares. These fields have set 10-11 true leaves. The crop is looking great with the usual few patches of poor soil where plants struggle or die.

Heat Units: Unfortunately, all the seven weather stations of the Texas ET Network of the Irrigation Technology Program located in El Paso County (<http://texaset.tamu.edu/el Paso.php>) appear to be offline. According to data from the Cotton Heat Units website (<http://www.cottonheatunits.com/>) the following are the accumulated heat units (HU), up to June 13, corresponding to selected planting dates for El Paso compared to the historical average heat units.

Planting date: April 10	Accumulated HU 973	Average 753
Planting date: April 15	Accumulated HU 946	Average 730
Planting date: April 20	Accumulated HU 910	Average 703
Planting date: April 25	Accumulated HU 879	Average 672
Planting date: April 30	Accumulated HU 823	Average 632
Planting date: May 5	Accumulated HU 783	Average 593
Planting date: May 10	Accumulated HU 719	Average 543
Planting date: May 15	Accumulated HU 680	Average 486

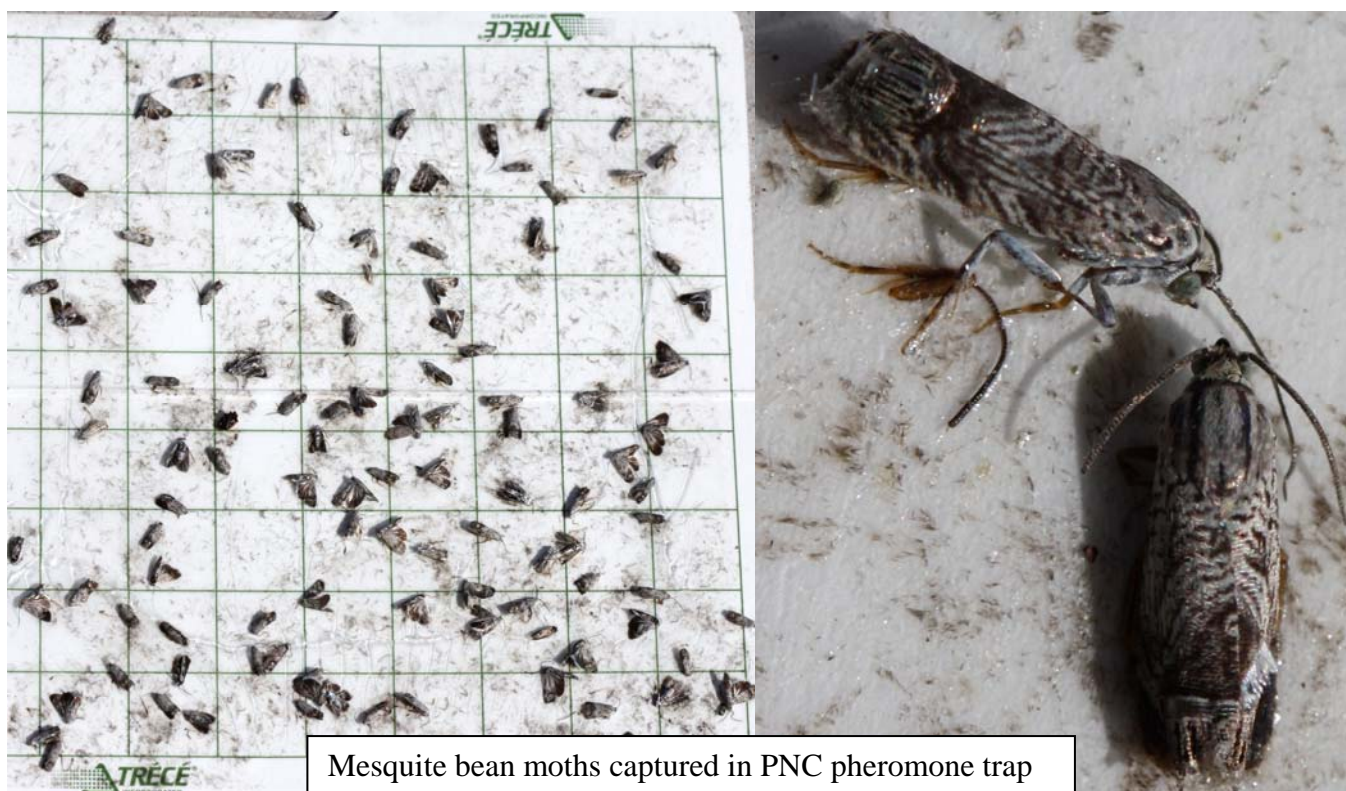
The “Cotton Heat Units” is a user friendly website that makes it convenient to calculate heat units based on your exact planting date and average temperatures for El Paso. This site also provides forecasts for the likely heat units that may be accumulated in the next 7 days.

I have observed low population levels of the cotton fleahopper (FH). This pest feeds on cotton squares and its damage results in blasted squares. Protection of squares from insect damage is essential because the majority of cotton yield comes from the first 4 – 5 weeks of squaring. The first 3 weeks of squaring are critical for FH control. The fourth and fifth weeks could be important only if FH occurs at very high population levels and square set is low. When cotton plants start blooming, the cotton fleahopper transitions from pest to beneficial insect because it feeds on caterpillar eggs.

PECAN:

Both Mark Muegge and Bill Ree report that, in their respective regions, populations of the first generation of the **pecan nut casebearer** (PNC) were highly variable. Some farms sustained a high PNC pressure, while other orchards had hardly any moths at all. That is certainly the story in our area. Locally, some growers did not make any treatment, others applied by the middle of May, and a few made very late insecticide applications. In some pecan orchards close to Tornillo, there was a second flight of moths several days after insecticides had been applied. The second PNC generation has started to appear. I found only one PNC moth in 10 traps located near Clint and Fabens. Mr. Juan Carlos Perez, General Manager of the El Paso Cotton Valley Association Inc, captured 5 PNC moths in 8 pheromone traps in Socorro yesterday (June 13). If you have not replaced your PNC pheromone lures and glue boards, you should do so immediately. This will allow you to better monitor this pest in your farm.

I have not received the lures for **hickory shuckworm** (HSW) yet, but I will place traps to monitor this pest soon. Most larvae that you find infesting nuts at the moment should be PNC. An easy way to tell



apart HSW from PNC larvae is that HSW larva has a body cream to “dirty white” in color, whereas PNC is usually dark to light olive green. Remember that HSW can feed on the nut before the shell hardens. After shell hardening, HSW mines the shuck. HSW damage results in nut drop, stick-tights, scarring of the shell, and delayed nut maturity.

Currently, large numbers of **Mesquite Bean Moths** (*Ofatulena duodecemstriata*) have been collected in PNC pheromone traps. I have found a few specimens in my traps, but I counted a total of 109 moths in a single PNC trap brought to my attention by Carlos Perez. He placed this trap near Tornillo. This moth is not a pest of pecans and should not be confused with PNC moths. The mesquite bean moth distribution includes the American Southwest, Mexico, Central America, and South America. It has been reported attacking pods of palo verde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), and mesquite, (*Prosopis spp.*). Distinguishing between these two insect species should be fairly easy because the mesquite bean moth has wings with light and dark banding and lacks the dark “ridge” of scales typical of PNC moths. Make sure that inexperienced scouts are not confusing the two.

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

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