

Far West Texas Agriculture

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If you would like to be added to the email or mailing list, please contact Eva Rivera at (915) 771-2354 or by email at eva.rivera@ag.tamu.edu.

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Pecans

I hope everybody is staying healthy and the growing season is going well. The first flight of Pecan Nut Casebearers is behind us but the next flight will be soon. I will continue to monitor orchards and check PNC traps. The wet winter has increased pest activity and Lecanium scale has been found all over the county. This has been confirmed by Dr. Sutherland from New Mexico State University. The picture below shows the remains of dead female scales. When the scales are peeled off, a fine yellow powder is underneath and are possibly eggs. The eggs absorb moisture and start to develop and hatch in late June or early July. After hatching the immature scales will feed on leaves and leaf petioles. The adult scales are hard to control with insecticide due to the hard-waxy shell but after the eggs hatch and the crawlers start to move and feed, they are susceptible to insecticides. This usually occurs for about four weeks during the summer.



Figure 1: Dead Lecanium Scale

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Cotton

The El Paso County Cotton Variety Trials have been planted as well as the Texas A&M AgriLife FOV4 trial. The FOV4 trial is evolving every year to better understand the spread, biology, and to identify other varieties that show tolerance to this disease. There have been some reports of some insect damage across the valley and I have started scouting some fields in the area. I have also been tasked with monitoring some sentinel plots for a relatively new cotton virus that is spreading westward rapidly but has not been identified here in El Paso or Hudspeth Counties. This virus is called the Cotton Leaf Roll Dwarf Virus (CLRDV). It is similar to cotton blue disease and cotton leaf crumple virus. CLRDV is aphid transmitted but the species that carry it have not been identified. Identifying this disease is difficult due to the large number of symptoms it can show some of which resemble herbicide damage. Some of these symptoms include plant stunting, shortened internodes, blistering or crinkling of new leaves, downward cupping of leaves, bunch top or a blueish leaf color. I would like to emphasize that this disease has not been identified in El Paso or Hudspeth Counties. If you suspect you see it let me know and I will take samples and send them off to the proper lab at no cost to you.



Figure 2: Symptoms of CLRDV (photo by Dr. Isakeit)

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Upcoming Events

Texas Pecan Growers Webinar

July 14, 2020

3 CEU's available (1 Laws and Regulations, 2 IPM)

Time (CST)	Topic	Presenter
9:00-9:30 am	Arrive online via Zoom	
9:30 am-10:00 am	Pecan herbicide review	Stephen Janak, Extension Program Specialist, Horticulture
10:00 am-11:00 am	Pesticide laws and regulations	Dr. Mark Matocha, Extension Specialist, Agricultural and Environmental Safety
11:00 am-11:30 am	Pecan scab and bacterial leaf scorch update	Dr. Young-Ki Jo, Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology and Microbiology
11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Intermission	
1:00 pm to 1:15 pm	Texas Pecan Growers Assn. Announcements	Blair Krebs, Exec. Director
1:15-pm to 2:00 pm	Pecan fruit development—tree stress implications	Monte Nesbitt, Extension Program Specialist, Horticulture
2:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Pecan IPM in West Texas	Joel Arce, Extension Agent-IPM, El Paso County
2:30 to 3:00 pm	Adjusting best management practices for pecan crop load	Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Specialist, Horticulture

Register at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/organizationListings/136>