

## Far West Texas Agriculture IPM

Volume 1, Issue 4

12/8/2020

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

### Alfalfa

The last few years alfalfa weevils have been infesting local fields. The alfalfa weevil is the most important pest of alfalfa. They are less than a quarter inch long and the color maybe brown to almost black. The weevil can reduce stands and often causes the loss of at least one cutting. Both the larva and the adult feed on alfalfa foliage and buds. The feeding causes the plants to be stunted and heavy populations can completely defoliate spots in the field. The larvae develop in the spring and feed for 30 to 60 days and pupate after 10 days into adult weevils. Early scouting for larvae can save the first cut which is most vulnerable to the larvae. The thresholds for alfalfa weevil larvae are listed in the table below. A list of insecticides can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Plant height (inches)	Larvae per terminal/stem	Larvae per square foot	Larvae per sweep
2-6	0.5-1.0	—	—
7-14	1.5	—	20
Near cutting <sup>1</sup>	2.0	—	40-50
Stubble <sup>2</sup> (after cutting)	1	16	—

<sup>1</sup> In alfalfa within 1 to 2 weeks of cutting, it may be advisable to cut early rather than apply an insecticide.

<sup>2</sup> Stubble<sup>2</sup> treatment may be advisable if cloudy conditions and mild temperatures allow many weevils to survive on the stubble under the windrows.

Table 1: Alfalfa Weevil Larvae Threshold

From Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Ento-064-2017 Publication



Figure 1. Alfalfa weevil larvae

Photo by: Frank Peairs



Figure 2: Adult alfalfa weevil

Photo by: Kansas Department of Agriculture



Figure 3: Alfalfa Weevil Damage

Photo by: Phil Sloderbeck

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## Far West Texas Agriculture IPM Pecans

Last week there were reports of untreated inshell pecans in trailers from the southeast part of the country. They were found at a shelling plant in the El Paso area. It is critical that any suspicious pecan loads are reported to the TDA to stop the spread of the pecan weevil into the non-quarantined areas of the country. The non-quarantined areas include the five western counties in Texas, and the states of New Mexico, Arizona, and California. The current treatment for in shell pecans being shipped into the non-quarantined areas are maintaining a temperature of 0°F for 168 hours and a truck/trailer inspection. These inspections are performed by the Texas Department of Agriculture. The truck/trailer inspection can occur before the trailer is loaded, at the treatment plant, at the shelling plant or anywhere along the way from the farm to the final destination.

### Pecan Weevil

Pecan weevils can be found in all pecan growing areas except the five western counties in Texas, and the states of New Mexico, Arizona, and California. The adult is a brownish weevil about 3/8 inch long. The female's snout is as long as its body, while the male's snout is shorter. The larvae are cream-colored grubs with reddish heads. When fully grown, larvae reach a length of 3/5 inch. Adults deposit eggs in maturing pecans where the larvae eat the developing kernel then exit the pecan by eating a round hole through the shell. The larvae fall to the ground where they burrow into the ground to mature into adults. The larvae can stay in the ground for 2-3 years while they mature into adults. The adults will emerge from the ground to start the cycle again.



Figure 4: Adult Female Pecan Weevil Depositing Eggs  
Photo From: Oklahoma State University Entomology Department



Figure 5: Pecan Weevil Larvae Inside Pecan Nut  
Photo by: Unknown

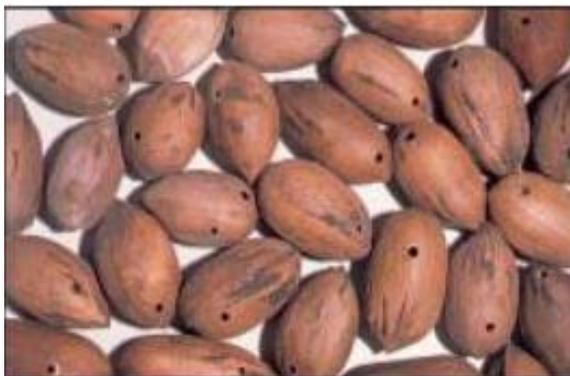


Figure 6: Pecan Weevil  
Larvae Exit Holes  
Photo by: Unknown

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If you suspect that inshell pecan are being shipped into the El Paso area report it to the **Texas Department of Agriculture**. If you suspect that you may have pecan weevils, collect a sample of any suspicious nuts or insect specimens (larvae or adults), put them in a sealed container, and place them in the freezer to preserve them. **If there are any questions regarding the transport of inshell pecans or if you suspect you have pecan weevil do not hesitate to contact Joel Arce or Orlando Flores at the El Paso County Extension Office at 915-771-2354.**

### **Pesticide Applicators CEU's**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the TDA has stated that they are allowing online CEU for this year even if you received online CEUs last year. If you have not gotten your CEU's for this year or need a few more you can get them online. If you are needing CEU's and do not want to take a course online, contact Joel Arce or Orlando Flores at 915-771-2354 and we can discuss some other options. I am currently planning a CEU conference in February 2021 that will most likely be virtual due the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising number of cases in El Paso. There will also be other opportunities to get CEU throughout the year if you cannot attend the CEU conference in February.

Link to Online Courses:

<https://agrilife.org/aes/ceus-continuing-education-trainings/>

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Active ingredient	Insecticide	Pre-grazing interval (days)	Pre-harvest interval (days)	Remarks
alpha-cypermethrin	Fastac	—	3	Restricted use
beta-cyfluthrin	Baythroid	—	7	Restricted use
chlorantraniliprole + lambda-cyhalothrin	Besiege	—	7 for hay 1 for forage	Restricted use
chlorpyrifos	Lorsban 4-E, Nufos, etc.	7 for ½ pt/acre, 14 for 1 pt/acre, 21 if more than 1 pt/acre	7 for ½ pt/acre, 14 for 1 pt/acre, 21 if more than 1 pt/acre	Restricted use
chlorpyrifos + gamma-cyhalothrin	Cobalt, Bolton	7–21, see label	7–21, see label	Restricted use
chlorpyrifos + lambda-cyhalothrin	Cobalt Advanced	7–21, see label	7–21, see label	Restricted use
chlorpyrifos + zeta-cypermethrin	Stallion	—	7	Restricted use
cyfluthrin	Tombstone	7	7	Restricted use
gamma-cyhalothrin	Declare, Proaxis	—	7	Restricted use
indoxacarb	Steward	—	7	General use
lambda-cyhalothrin	Warrior II, Karate, Lambda Cy, generics	—	7 for hay, 1 for forage	Restricted use
permethrin	Ambush, Pounce, generics	—	14	Restricted use
phosmet	Imidan 70 WP	7	7	Danger—poison. Do not enter fields for 5 days after treatment. General use
zeta-cypermethrin	Mustang Maxx, Respect	3	3	Restricted use

Table 2: Insecticides labeled for control of alfalfa weevil larvae in alfalfa. Follow label directions.  
From Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Ento-064-2017 Publication