



OKLAHOMA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Michael Smith, Editor

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The President's Corner

I would like to take a little time and give you an update on our pecan referendum. First I would like to thank everyone who worked on getting signatures, but there are two people we all need to give special thanks, Bill Ihle and Robert Schoenecke. They are the co-chairmen of our pecan referendum. They have spent a lot of time on the phone and made numerous trips to Oklahoma City in getting us to this point and I am sure they will be making many more.

On August 20, we turned in the petitions with 240+ names. When the State Agriculture Department went through them they accepted 157. We needed 200. They then sent out an affidavit to the ones they questioned to sign it and send it back in. By making a lot of phone calls and doing a lot of driving, on Sept. 29, a hearing was held and we had 205 names accepted.

We had a hearing before a judge on Sept. 29, at 10:00 a.m. at the Ag Department. There was no opposition present. The judge has 30 days to study the petition and give us an answer. He did comment that he did not think it would take that long. If he approves it, Secretary of Agriculture, Terry Peach also has 30 days to consider the petition.

If it is accepted, then we will have to plan an election and we have 90 days after we receive the O.K. As it stands now, we will probably be looking at the election the last of January or first part of February. My thinking is that we will have a mailout ballot. We must have 2/3 majority of those voting to pass the referendum. So we will need a lot of your help to get it passed.

If you see Bill or Robert, be sure to give them a special thanks for all the work they have done



At this time, it looks like we have a good pecan crop. From what I am hearing the price sounds good, so good luck with your pecan harvest.

Sincerely
Carrel Bryant



Thanks

Michael Smith, Dept. of Horticulture and L.A.

I would like to thank all those individuals that put in many hours to gather names on a petition to start the Oklahoma Pecan Commodity Board. I also thank all the individuals that signed the petition. I firmly believe that a commodity must contribute to the research/extension programs that support their commodity for the University to maintain a viable and active program. Funding for agriculture is decreasing. Emphasis at the national level and from most granting agencies is for basic research rather than production research. The only way production based programs will be sustained is for the commodity organization to partner with the University. By doing this, I hope the pecan industry can maintain a University program with research and extension support in horticulture, entomology and pathology. I believe these University programs contribute to a strong and viable industry.

The Oklahoma Pecan Commodity Board can also expand pecan markets by working with the University and other organizations. One example is the reduced oil pecans using critical point extraction. This technology was developed by an OSU team of scientists led by Niels Maness. The reduced oil pecan could be used in dietetic products and to extend pecan shelf-life, and the oil could be used in face creams, as a flavoring component, gourmet cooking oil, etc. Another project that will affect pecan marketing, particularly Oklahoma produced native pecans, is technology to identify and remove in-shell pecans that contain weevil from other pecans in a cleaning or cracking line. Oklahoma native pecans tend to have a higher weevil infestation than pecans from other areas according to many shellers. Consumers are intolerant of weevil larvae in finished products. It is difficult and expensive for shellers to remove pecan weevil larvae from kernels and particularly pieces. The technology being developed by scientists in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at OSU should allow efficient and inexpensive removal of nuts with weevil larvae before they are cracked. Thus, the price paid for native pecans in Oklahoma might increase relative to others.

I believe the petition will be accepted, and then the next step will be a vote to create of the Oklahoma Pecan Commodity Board and elect six pecan producers to the first Board of Directors. These Directors will administer the funds collected from the 1/2¢ per pound assessment on Oklahoma pecans sold. The vote will probably be in January. Please inform all your neighbors of the importance and need for such a program in Oklahoma.

Pecan Insurance

Scott Bulling, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau in cooperation with the USDA Risk Management Agency is offering a crop insurance program for pecan producers in Oklahoma. The program is designed to protect against unavoidable loss of income due to adverse weather conditions, fire, insect damage, plant disease, wildlife, or a decline in market price. It will also cover other perils. The coverage is purchased in two year increments with the same premium rate, coverage level and guarantee for the two year period. The coverage, premiums and claims are processed on a yearly basis.

The coverage is based upon a producer's individual average dollar amount of gross sales for the previous crop years reported and coverage level that the producer selects. Producers must be able to provide at least 4 years of records and the orchard inspected by us to obtain coverage. This policy will cover both native and improved varieties on "managed" orchards.

If you have any questions please call your county Farm Bureau office or Scott Bulling at 405-649-2328 or cell 405-205-0061.

The following is a RMA example:

Year	Acres	Lbs/Ac	Gross sales
2000	100	1700	\$1,430/ac
2001	100	650	\$560/ac
2002	100	2000	\$1,700/ac
2003	100	1250	\$940/ac

(Average Gross Sales) = \$1,158/ac

Level of Coverage (50% - 75%) x Average Gross Sales = Amt of Ins

65 % x \$1,158 = \$753/ac (Amt of Ins)

In 2004 Produced 500 lb/ac with an average price of \$.75/lb = \$375/ac

Amount of Ins: \$753.00 per acre

Value of Production - \$375.00 per acre

\$378.00 per acre X 100 ac = \$37,800 Indemnity



Oklahoma Pecan Referendum Update W.C. "Bill" Ihle, Committee Chairman

The 2004 annual meeting in Idabel, was the beginning phase of the Oklahoma pecan initiative's petition drive to show support of the OPGA's initiative to bring to a state wide vote to create an Oklahoma Pecan Commodity Board. The purpose of the Oklahoma Pecan Commodity Board is to support and promote a healthy pecan industry through supplemental funding for extension and research activities that supports pecan production and marketing. The board would consist of six members elected by their peers. The assessment would be 1/2 cent per pound of pecans sold and would be collected at the first point of sale. Producers may obtain an assessment refund by the prescribed process allowed by law. Producers eligible to sign the petition and vote must have more than 15 acres of pecans or more than 225 trees. Producers with 15 acres or less or 225 pecan trees or less are exempt from the assessment program but may voluntarily participate in the program. Upon approval by qualified voters this assessment program will become effective September 1, 2005.

The petition drive lasted 90 days in which a minimum of 200 signatures had to be obtained for the referendum process to continue. The petition drive was more difficult than I thought it would be. Throughout the state the feed back we received on our pecan initiative was generally very good, the challenge was in contacting growers and getting the petition to them to sign. I sincerely want to thank so many people who stepped up and helped with the petition drive. It took many hours on the phone and a lot of miles driving to complete the petition drive. The petition was delivered to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture with 247 names. The petition went through the verification process at the Department in which they ran into some difficulty in verifying some names because they were not on their data base. After the initial phase of the verification process was completed, the petition ended up with 171 verified names. At the time of writing this article several members of the OPGA are assisting the Department in locating those individuals that they could not verify. I am very positive that in a few days, the petition process will be completed and will be accepted by the Department. The next phase will be the public hearing which is set for September 29 at 10 am.

I realize that this newsletter will be out after the public hearing. If things go well at this meeting, then I am confident we will see the OPGA's pecan initiative go to a state wide vote. If you are curious how the public meeting went,

contact any of the board members or you may call me at 918-367-5529. As this process continues we will keep all members informed.

I sincerely want to thank all those that have helped in our initiative. This venture has taken a lot of work, time and voluntary dollars to get it to this point and I feel our efforts will pay off. I particularly want to thank Robert Shoenecke from Meeker. He was very helpful on many hurdles that we had to clear. Hope to be able to give the OPGA members some good news in our next newsletter. HAVE A GOOD HARVEST AND ENJOY THE GREAT PRICES WE ARE GONING TO SEE THIS FALL.

Oklahoma State Pecan Show 2004 Becky Carroll

This year looks to be a bumper crop for pecans. Be sure to get the word out to everyone to enter their best pecans in the state show this year. There will not be any qualifying regional or district pecan shows this year. However, some county/area shows will be held at the discretion of the County Extension Educator. Growers are encouraged to participate in county shows if available. Winning entries from county shows will be sent to the state show. If no county/area show is available, growers may enter pecans directly by sending samples to Becky Carroll, 360 Ag Hall, OSU, Stillwater, OK 74078. Samples should arrive by January 10, 2005.

Samples should be entered in a sealed plastic or paper bag. Label the bag on the outside and place a label inside the bag. Information should include exhibitors name and address, county, and type of pecan entered. Be sure to follow the guidelines that are listed below before sending entries.

A few helpful hints: Take the time to select pecans that are all the same cultivar, or same size and shape natives – don't send mixed pecans. Select uniform, clean, uncracked pecans. Presentation can make the difference between two very similar samples. Make sure to send 2 pounds of pecans in a labeled and sealed bag.

General Rules and Guidelines

- All entries must be grown in Oklahoma during the current season.
- Each entry shall consist of two pounds of nuts.
- Entries deemed unworthy by the judges will not compete for awards.

- Label each entry as to exhibitor's name, address and cultivar of nuts. If more than one native (seedling) pecan exhibit is made, identify the nuts from separate trees by numbers. Only one exhibit of each cultivar or native tree may be entered by one individual.
- Each entry will compete in one of the following 28 classes:
 1. *Apache*
 2. *Barton*
 3. *Burkett*
 4. *Cheyenne*
 5. *Choctaw*
 6. *Comanche*
 7. *Graking*
 8. *Gratex*
 9. *Kanza*
 10. *Kiowa*
 11. *Mahan*
 12. *Maramec*
 13. *Mohawk*
 14. *Pawnee*
 15. *Peruque*
 16. *SanSaba Improved*
 17. *Schley (eastern)*
 18. *Shawnee*
 19. *Shoshoni*
 20. *Sioux*
 21. *Squirrels Delight*
 22. *Stuart*
 23. *Success*
 24. *Western*
 25. *Wichita*
 26. *Other Cultivars*
 27. *Large-Native (seedling)*
 28. *Small-Native (seedling)*
- Each grower is allowed to participate at one county show of his or her choice.
- Each grower is allowed to enter one entry in each show class with the exception of Class 26 (Other Cultivars), Class 27 (Large-seedling) and Class 28 (Small- seedling)
- Each grower may enter one entry from each native (seedling) tree.
- Entries should be shipped or mailed to arrive at the show at least one day prior to the deadline.
- County pecan shows will not be affected by these

rules and procedures.

- Only first and second place winners in each class of each county/area show will be eligible to compete in the State Pecan Show. Following each county show, eligible entries will be placed in cold storage, and judged before the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Annual Meeting. At that time, the winning entries will be displayed with awards and recognitions. All entries will become the property of the OPGA.
- First and second place winners in each class at the State Pecan Show will receive ribbons.
- State Pecan Show Special Awards – Trophies will be awarded for the largest pecan entry, the entry having the highest kernel percentage, the champion native and the best entry of the show.
- If a qualifying show is not available, growers may submit entries in accordance with these guidelines directly to the State Show. Entries in the state show must be received by January 10, 2005 at the following address:

Oklahoma State University
Department of Horticulture & LA
Attn: Becky Carroll
360 Ag Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078

Pecan Scab
Michael Smith,
Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Pecan scab is our most damaging pecan disease. Pecan scab attacks both the leaves (Fig. 1) and the nuts (Fig. 2). Cultivar susceptibility to scab ranges from resistant (i.e. 'Kanza', 'Peruque' and 'Mount') to highly susceptible (i.e. 'Wichita' and 'Western Schley'). Cultivars that are highly susceptible to pecan scab can only be grown successfully in the arid areas of western Oklahoma.

For a pecan scab infection to develop, ambient temperature must be 70°F or greater, there must be free moisture, susceptible tissue and scab spores. During the spring when rain is frequent, the ambient temperature during the rain event is often below 70°F, thus scab infections do not occur. However, during the late spring and summer, temperatures are typically above 70°F and rain or prolonged dew often results in a scab infection on susceptible tissue that is not protected by a fungicide.

Mature tissue is normally resistant to scab, even on scab

susceptible cultivars. For instance, expanding leaves of 'Pawnee' are scab susceptible, but when the leaves are fully expanded they are resistant to scab infection. Nuts begin rapid growth after pollination in late May or early June. The rapidly expanding shuck tissue of scab susceptible cultivars is susceptible to infection if not protected by a fungicide. Also, fungicide protection is limited to the areas covered by the fungicide, thus as the nut grows, new unprotected tissue is exposed.

Scab spores are spread in the wind. Since pecan trees and pecan scab are native to Oklahoma, scab spores are generally ubiquitous. However, both pecan trees and pecan scab are specialized. They are fighting a duel with the genetics of an individual native tree or cultivar imparting resistance to some types of scab, and the scab developing certain types that can infect those trees that are resistant. The specialized scab types are called races. A particular race may infect one to a few susceptible pecan cultivars or native trees, but not other susceptible pecan trees. Another scab race may infect some native trees or cultivars that the first one couldn't, and so on. Resistant cultivars avoid infection from the scab races to which they are exposed. However, with time resistance may be lost as new scab races develop. Thus a pecan might be resistant in one location and susceptible at another site. For instance, 'Mohawk', 'Choctaw' and 'Stuart' have been considered scab resistant. Now, each of these cultivars are scab resistant at some sites and susceptible at others, i.e. they are losing resistance because new scab races have developed. Eventually, they will be scab susceptible at all sites.

Control of pecan scab on susceptible cultivars requires that a suitable fungicide be applied at the correct rate and at the proper time. Sharon von Broembsen, OSU plant pathologist, developed a pecan scab infection model to aid in timing fungicide applications. The model is available on the internet at <http://www.agweather.mesonet.org/>. This model is based on field research that documented scab development throughout the growing season, and then correlated scab development with weather measurements of temperature and humidity. The model predicts when a fungicide should be applied to prevent significant scab infections on highly susceptible, moderately susceptible and moderately resistant pecan trees. This year was unusually wet and cool, resulting in more scab pressure than normal. Many pecans were lost this year because of scab infection.

Those individuals that used the pecan scab model reported good scab control.

A Texas study characterized damage from pecan scab (Johnson and Halliwell, 1992). Nut samples were collected at shuck split and rated for scab using the scale 0 = no infection, 1 = 1-10% of the shuck infected, 2 = 11-20%, 3 = 21-40%, 4 = 41-75%, and 5 = 76-100%. Shucks were removed from the nuts, and then nut weight and kernel % determined.



Figure 1. Pecan scab on leaf

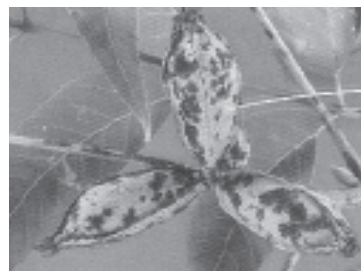


Figure 2. Pecan scab on nut

The number of nuts per pound increased as shuck scab infection level increased but kernel percentage was not affected by scab (Table 1). As scab infection increased, from none to over 75% shuck coverage, nut weight decreased from

33% to 43%, representing a substantial yield loss associated with scab. Additionally, scab induces premature nut drop, another nut loss that was not included in this study.

Scab may also affect the crop potential for next year. Trees that are defoliated before October 15 have little or no chance for a crop the following year. Partial defoliation has an intermediate effect on crop potential.

Literature cited

Johnson, J.D. and R.S. Halliwell. 1992. Effect of pecan scab infection on nut quality. *Pecan South* 25(4):40-42.

Table 1. Relation between percent shuck infected with pecan scab and number of nuts per pound and percent kernel.

Nut measurement	Pecan scab rating					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Desirable</i>						
Nuts/lb	35.3	36.3	36.8	37.0	40.2	47.1
Kernel %	52.0	47.7	47.8	40.9	51.3	46.1
<i>Mahan</i>						
Nuts/lb	57.0	66.9	65.6	63.6	67.7	78.5
Kernel %	53.4	54.1	49.5	49.2	50.0	45.3
<i>Wichita</i>						
Nuts/lb	90.8	111.8	107.9	115.4	119.0	130.3
Kernel %	50.1	50.2	51.8	50.6	50.2	50.0

Powdery Mildew

Michael Smith,

Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Powdery mildew is a fungal disease that attacks both the foliage and nuts of pecan trees. The disease forms a tangled mass of white hyphal threads over the infected area, causing a white appearance. Powdery mildew spores do not require free water to germinate; however, high humidity is required for development. Above average rainfall and cool nights have resulted in more powdery mildew than normal in Oklahoma pecan orchards. The disease is more severe in areas with poor air circulation and cultivar or native tree susceptibility varies greatly. Particularly severe infections can cause premature defoliation. Powdery mildew overwinters on old shucks and leaves and during the spring spores are released to start new infections.



In 1973, while I was an undergraduate student at O.S.U. working for Professor Herman Hinrichs, severe infections of powdery mildew developed on pecan in August and September that were associated with a cool, wet summer. No information was available that characterized powdery mildew damage; therefore, a study was initiated that related the degree of infection to nut drop and quality.

Three cultivars were selected for the study: 'San Saba Improved', 'Texas Prolific', and 'Oklahoma'. Nuts were tagged on August 30 that had no powdery mildew, 50% of the shuck surface covered, or 100% of the shuck surface covered. Nuts were avoided that had visible evidence of pecan scab infection or other diseases. Fifty nuts of each powdery mildew infestation level were tagged on each

cultivar. Nuts were monitored for premature drop, and then harvested individually by hand at shuck split on November 2, 8, and 14 for 'Texas Prolific', 'San Saba Improved' and 'Oklahoma', respectively. Nuts were dried to about 5% moisture, then individually analyzed for nut size (weight) and kernel percentage.

Premature nut drop from August 30 until shuck split averaged 7.3%, and was not affected by the severity of powdery mildew infection. The number of nuts to make one pound increased as the degree of powdery mildew infection increased (Table 1). Nut size reduction by powdery mildew was greatest on 'San Saba Improved' and least on 'Texas Prolific'. 'San Saba Improved' nuts weighed 28% less if the shuck was completely covered with powdery mildew, and 8.2% less if 50% covered. 'Texas Prolific' nut weight was only reduced by 7.5% and 4.8% for 100% and 50% shuck coverage, respectively. The nut weight reduction across cultivars caused by 100% coverage of the shuck was 18% and for 50% coverage was 6.9%. The reductions in nut size associated with various powdery mildew infection levels should be similar to the yield reductions expected.

Kernel percentage was not affected by the degree of powdery mildew infection for any cultivar. Kernel percentages averaged 55.35%, 57.62%, and 49.40% for 'Texas Prolific', 'San Saba Improved', and 'Oklahoma', respectively. These kernel percentages are typical for these cultivars.

911 Address

Oklahoma is in the process of replacing route and box numbers with street addresses to improve response time in case of emergency. Soon after the new address is issued the Post Office begins returning mail that bears the old address to the sender. As soon as you get a new address, please send the address revision to Janice Landgraf, RR 1 Box 148, Madill, OK 73446 or email her at okpecan@trinex.net.

Table 1. Effect of powdery mildew infection on the number of nuts per pound.

Powdery mildew (% shuck surface covered)	Nuts/pound			
	Texas Prolific	San Saba Imp.	Oklahoma	Average
0%	70.3	94.7	83.7	82.8
50%	73.7	102.5	89.3	88.5
100%	75.8	121.3	96.0	97.7

OKLAHOMA PECAN PRODUCTION IN THOUSAND POUNDS AND PRICE PER POUND

Dean McCraw, Ext. Horticulturist Becky Carroll, Sr. Agriculturist

YEAR	SEEDLINGS	PRICE (cents/lb)	VARIETIES	PRICE (cents/lb)	PRODUCTION TOTAL
1944	12,600	15.8	1,400	29.5	14,000
1945	24,500	20.0	1,500	31.8	26,000
1946	5,900	28.7	1,100	42.2	7,000
1947	40,900	17.5	3,100	31.0	44,000
1948	14,000	10.5	1,000	25.0	15,000
1949	21,960	18.0	2,040	27.0	24,000
1950	6,370	26.0	630	38.0	7,000
1951	23,500	18.0	1,500	29.0	25,000
1952	2,600	18.5	340	30.0	3,000
1953	26,000	15.0	1,600	24.1	27,600
1954	13,000	26.5	1,500	34.0	14,500
1955	29,700	29.5	3,300	38.5	33,000
1956	6,500	18.5	600	31.0	7,100
1957	28,800	21.5	2,200	30.5	31,000
1958	13,900	27.5	1,600	36.5	15,500
1959	8,500	31.0	500	44.0	9,000
1960	38,000	29.0	3,000	36.5	41,000
1961	10,900	17.0	700	29.0	11,600
1962	6,800	32.0	800	43.0	7,600
1963	15,000	18.5	1,000	30.0	15,600
1964	35,000	20.5	2,000	30.0	37,000
1965	40,000	16.0	3,000	25.0	43,000
1966	5,800	27.0	200	36.0	6,000
1967	49,000	30.7	4,000	40.0	53,000
1968	1,400	32.0	100	45.0	1,500
1969	13,800	28.0	700	41.0	14,500
1970	7,700	36.0	300	49.0	8,000
1971	17,500	29.0	1,500	45.0	19,000
1972	3,600	39.0	600	52.0	4,200
1973	26,000	29.0	2,000	53.0	28,000
1974	2,300	36.0	200	59.0	2,500
1975	18,500	32.0	1,500	55.0	20,000
1976	1,500	60.0	800	90.0	2,300
1977	12,000	46.0	1,500	77.0	13,500
1978	13,500	56.0	2,000	89.0	15,500
1979	9,000	41.0	1,000	81.0	10,000
1980	3,000	68.0	500	115.0	3,500
1981	44,500	44.5	2,500	66.5	47,000
1982	4,200	57.0	800	137.0	5,000
1983	7,000	43.0	1,000	86.0	8,000
1984	23,000	50.0	2,000	91.0	25,000
1985	8,500	53.0	1,500	85.0	10,000
1986	13,500	59.0	1,500	96.5	15,000
1987	11,000	38.0	1,000	79.3	12,000
1988	44,500	42.2	2,500	64.6	47,000
1989	8,000	59.1	1,000	98.2	9,000
1990	4,200	87.0	800	114.0	5,000
1991	16,000	76.4	1,000	130.0	17,000
1992	8,500	108.0	500	150.0	9,000
1993	17,000	39.0	1,000	71.0	18,000
1994	10,700	69.8	1,300	151.0	12,000
1995	16,500	78.0	2,500	110.0	19,000
1996	1,500	52.0	500	99.0	2,000
1997	32,000	55.0	3,000	76.0	35,000
1998	1,800	68.0	200	122.0	2,000
1999	60,000	55.0	3,000	88.0	63,000
2000	2,300	80.0	200	130.0	2,500
2001	18,000	42.0	2,000	53.0	20,000
2002	8,500	50.0	1,500	60.0	10,000
2003*	10,000	60.0	2,000	70.0	12,000
Avg of all years	16,337	40.5	1,410	64.5	17,742
Avg of 10 years	16,073	63.3	1,427	100.9	17,500

Source: USDA Crop Reporting Board

*Preliminary data

Membership Application

We invite you to become a member of the Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association. Membership includes the *OPGA Newsletter*, *Pecan South* and *Pecan Grower*. Make your checks payable to OPGA and mail to:

Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association
Janice Landgraf, Treasurer
RR 1 Box 148
Madill, OK 73446
okpecan@trinex.net (580) 795-7644

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Renew New Member

Grower Member \$50.00
Industry Member \$125.00
Extension/Research/Student \$40.00

Return Service Requested

Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association
c/o Horticulture & Landscape Architecture
Oklahoma State University
360 Agricultural Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078-6027