



OKLAHOMA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Michael Smith, Editor

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President's Corner

Robert Schoenecke, OPGA President

The 76th annual OPGA conference and show is now history and marked as a success. We had approximately 225 registrants which is very good attendance. I would like to thank all those that worked so hard to make the conference a success. A special thank you to the OSU staff for all the hard work of putting together a great educational program and to Becky Carroll and Becky Cheary for their work on the pecan show. Also thanks to Valley View Pecans and Benson Park Pecans for their hospitality on the tour of their facilities and I want to especially thank those who donated and participated in the silent auction and food auction. These auctions raised \$1,874 and \$3,350 respectively that goes to research of pecan production.

During our business meeting the subject of policy on the use of chicken litter or animal waste was addressed and suggested that OPGA form some kind of policy statement on this subject. We as officers and directors will attempt to form some kind of statement; however, I would like to invite your input on this subject or any other policy you may think is important. We will be having a meeting sometime probably in August and you can contact any board member or officer and we will try to address it.

It appears that we as an association have missed an opportunity to express our views on a rather important issue concerning NPSA's announcement on "pecan dedicated containers." For those that didn't have the opportunity to see the handouts at the conference, NPSA recently endorsed the following policy, **"Beginning with 2006 crop, in shell pecans must be held, shipped, stored and received in pecan-dedicated containers (paper, cardboard, polypropylene, burlap sacks, bags, boxes or totes). Containers that have been used for any purpose other than the transportation and storage of pecans will no longer be accepted."** This policy will ultimately affect each of us during this year's crop. As I understand this, we will have to have new containers for this year's product and use only containers that were used for pecans subsequent years. Fortunately it appears that with the hot dry weather and crop estimates from 160-190 million pounds this policy will be easier to implement for NPSA.

If you have any input or ideas concerning policy of the association, you may contact me or a director. My phone number is (405) 273-2808.

Land-Grant Death Spiral Mirrors Farmer's Problems

By Roy Roberson, *Farm Press Editorial Staff*

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You won't find much about the land-grant death spiral in a search of Google, nor any library in the world, I suspect. You won't hear much about it at any public forum in the country, but behind closed doors at NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges) meetings it has been a topic of discussion for over a decade.

Too few farmers know about the problems of land grant universities, nor how the demise may be a mirror for what is down the road for American agriculture — most live it, but don't see it.

Rightfully so, some contend agricultural researchers, teachers and Extension specialists do the same things their predecessors did and so on and so on without generating anything really new or beneficial for farmers. The Romans had a term for academicians praising academics: *asinus asinum fricat*. Roughly translated that means jackasses rubbing jackasses.

Every segment of our society has its share of dead-beats, land grant institutions are no different. However, as a product of a land grant university and a long-time employee, I can assure you there are plenty of dedicated professionals at every land-grant institution who are driven to help farmers, regardless of monetary or academic rewards.

The land-grant death spiral is fueled by a loss of revenue for agriculture, loss of interest in agriculture by a high majority of the public, de-emphasis of agriculture in education, and the increased influence by big business and big government in agricultural policy.

The result has been compared to falling off a tall building, the descent is slow at first and the fresh air rather refreshing, then the ascent becomes faster and the reality that something is desperately wrong turns from concern to panic as ground nears. By most assessments the proverbial ground is nearing and the resulting 'splat' from such a downward spiral seems unavoidable.

In a less esoteric sense take a look at the death spiral this way. Because of funding shortfalls, a Southern land-grant university decides that variety testing no longer merits management by a senior researcher/professor. These tests are relegated to graduate students, then technicians, then ended all together. There is no need for a faculty member to work with the various crops tested, nor the support work that goes into it, so two or three or four or more faculty positions are eliminated.

Since these research positions are tied to Extension positions, gone are two or three or more Extension specialist positions. Without the specialists what good are ANR (agriculture and natural resource agents) at the county level. Since the teaching program in a land-grant college is supposed to be supported by research and outreach, what is the need for teaching programs, so these are dramatically cut back. With no facilities for research needed, these are eliminated, so there are no facilities for cooperating scientists from the USDA or APHIS or other federal agencies.

In subsequent generations, there is no masters or doctoral training programs for scientists to conduct agricultural research. In the longer-term there is no support system, other than those set up for profit. Splat!

The history of agriculture's academic support system is finite. In 1862, the Morrill Act created funding for land-grant institutions in each state. In 1887, the U.S. Congress passed the Hatch Act, creating funding for agricultural experiment stations in each state. In 1914, the Smith Lever Act created funding for the Cooperative Extension System. And, in 1917 the Smith Hughes Act brought agriculture to the classroom.

In the Southeast, enlightened politicians like Alabama Governor Braxton Bragg Comer got a jump on Federal programs. In 1907, he allocated \$4,500 for each high school in the state to teach agriculture, stipulating that \$750 of this go for student agricultural research projects. In 1908, Georgia and Virginia followed suit with similar programs.

By comparison with the former influence of agriculture in secondary education, a recent study of high school students as part of the Farm City Week program, the question was asked, "Where does bacon come from? Fourth, behind grocery stores, refrigerator and cows; came the correct response.

All these programs combined to make America the most efficient agriculture economy in the World. By 1940, over 30 million Americans made a living on the farm. Along with efficiency came progress, and subsequently change. By the time of the second Gulf War less than two million farmers remained in the U.S.

While the non-farming public fumes about the high price of food, few realize that in the U.S. we are the only country in the world that spends less than 10 percent of disposable income on food. Sure, a trip to the super mart costs infinitely more money these days, but then again we don't eat hairspray, car tires, and any home furnishing known to mankind that are sold in the super mart. Factor out what is food and what is not, compare that to today's income, and the relative price of food is much lower than in any of the 'good old days'.

No matter how large or how small the scope of a farm operation, future successes in agriculture will be directly related to the infrastructure that supports it. The continued downward spiral of our land-grant institutions is robbing agriculture of this much-needed infrastructure. Once research, teaching and Extension programs are gone, these are generally gone for good. Likewise, once tractor dealerships, farm credit offices, etc, are gone, these too are gone for good.

Less than two million farm voices versus more than 30 million in 1940 may be fewer in number, but they can still be loud. The time for saving the land-grant component of our agricultural infrastructure is now, not after the 'splat'.

Native Trees

Michael Smith

Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Dept.

The single most important part of managing native trees is to ensure that trees receive adequate sunlight. This is done by thinning crowded trees to the proper spacing. Trees should have at least 10 feet between canopies and no more than 60% of the orchard floor shaded at solar noon. If your orchard is crowded, then you are sacrificing both production and nut quality. In addition, the extra trees take additional time to spray and harvest, plus mowing time is increased. Crowded orchards take money out of your pocket.

Now that you have decided to thin that crowded orchard, you must decide which trees to remove. Dr. Dean McCraw measured individual tree production in a native orchard for several years. He found that 80% of the production came from 20% of the trees. A highly productive native orchard can only be developed if you leave the trees that consistently produce nuts. The only way you can make intelligent decisions regarding which trees to remove is to have some type of production history on each tree in the orchard.

A production history can be mapped directly on the tree trunk. Before harvest inspect each tree in the crowded area and mark the tree if it has an acceptable crop relative to other trees. Continue this for three to five years and you will have a good production history for that tree painted directly on the tree trunk. We typically use tree marking paints in spray cans that have a higher pigment density than normal spray paints. These paints are available from Forestry Suppliers, Inc. (<http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>) and other companies.

At the time you are considering productivity, trees with severe disease problems can be marked for removal. Other items that are usually considered when thinning are general

tree health, multi-trunk trees, nut shape and size, and tree size. Generally, it is preferred to have two smaller trees than one large tree since pesticide coverage is better and they are less susceptible to wind and lightning damage.

Production can be increased substantially when native trees are properly spaced. Attention to detail when thinning can greatly affect the orchard's production potential.

New Directions at OSU

Michael Smith & Dale Maronek

Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Dept.

The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at OSU completed a multi-day planning session in June. The session addressed teaching, research and extension components of the department. Our first discussion was to decide what would be the primary driving force of the department. After much discussion, it was concluded that research must be the highest priority. There were a variety of reasons for this decision. Here are just a few. First, it was perceived that department receives greater national recognition for research accomplishments as measured by grants received, refereed (peer reviewed) publications, and industry-changing accomplishments. Second, our graduate research program needs additional support and this can be accomplished through research grants and contracts. Third, traditional funding to support teaching and extension components was often inadequate to support department budget needs and rehabilitation of critical research facilities.

Concluding that research should be designated as the primary driving force in the department, further discussions centered on the type of research positions that were needed to be competitive in today's environment. It is apparent that allocated funds from state and federal governments are inadequate to support our on-going research programs. In our department, allocated funds for research are typically about the cost each scientist pays for one year's telephone service. Therefore, developing a long term successful research program must be based on securing extramural funding. We then examined the types of agricultural research that federal and state funding agencies are seeking that was compatible with our department. These broadly fell into categories of environmental quality, biotechnology, food safety, and human health, nutrition and well being. Notice that production research is not included in these categories. The department's research scientists have diligently tried to sustain production research for more than 10 years through existing and external resources. Unfortunately today, there are few agencies that fund pro-

duction research and these are dwindling each year. Currently fundable production research by major agencies is limited and primarily in the organic or sustainable management arenas or in pest management.

Production research will only remain a strong component if the commodity producers choose to fund that research. This is true for any commodity area, not just pecans. For new positions and replacements for scientists who retire or leave, we have decided to hire individuals in those areas identified above where competitive grants are available. Programs must have money to operate; therefore, in the absence of funding from a producer group research priorities will be shifted to fundable areas.

Can the Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association (OPGA) influence the direction and research priorities of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture? The short answer is yes – but only if pecan producers in Oklahoma care enough to develop a source of funding for production research. One year ago, individuals in the OPGA sought a ½¢ per pound check-off program aimed at supporting research and extension programs in pecans at OSU. The referendum for the check-off program required a 2/3 majority to pass. It failed by 33 votes. This took a tremendous amount of work by certain leaders in the OPGA. For such a program to be established in Oklahoma it will take the efforts and leadership of all concerned. All pecan producers in Oklahoma must be educated about the value and need for production research. Otherwise, applied pecan research in horticulture will likely vanish, just as the applied entomology research on pecans has ceased to exist. A decline in support of production research for all commodities is occurring at land-grant institutions throughout the United States. It costs a university in excess of \$200,000 in overhead to support an agriculture research scientist. Hence, those programs that prosper are supported by a joint university/industry funding partnership.

Priorities for a faculty position can also be created by developing what is termed an Endowed Chair. This is a position that is associated with an endowment that pays part of the faculty member's salary plus some funds from the endowment are available for research. Normally, an Endowed Chair position will have an endowment ranging from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. However, only ½ of the funds are required from the individual or group for the endowment and Oklahoma matches funds for the other ½. The individual or group responsible for the endowment can specify the research topic that the Endowed Chair will address, i.e. horticultural research on pecan. Only interest from the endowment is used, so this position last indefinitely.

There are also changes in cooperative extension. Many of you may be aware that OSU no longer prints Fact Sheets and Current Reports. These are only available online or on a print-on-demand basis at county extension offices. Also, some of the more extensive publications are being sold rather than offered without charge to the public. In many instances, a registration fee is charged for extension sponsored educational meetings to offset costs. There is also more emphasis being placed on program delivery through electronic media. Another step being considered by the department is implementation of a mileage charge for site visits. This is already in place on an informal basis with some clientele groups. Cooperative extension has the same problem as research – inadequate funding. The vast majority of the public are urban dwellers that do not value or use cooperative extension, consequently funding does not adequately support needed activities. Therefore, for these programs to continue, participants will be asked to share the expenses.

Teaching programs within the department are also being modified to reflect changes in student demand. The department offers degrees in Landscape Architecture, Landscape Contracting, Turf, Public Horticulture and Horticulture. Demand in Landscape Architecture exceeds available personnel and facilities. Therefore, it has been necessary to cap this program at 15 students per year that can enter the 4th and 5th years of the program. Typically, there are about 80 students in the total 5-year program, but a highly competitive screening and acceptance process takes place at the end of the 3rd program year. Those that are not accepted transfer to other areas.

Student numbers in Landscape Contracting are increasing rapidly. Landscape Contracting is a service industry primarily directed at landscape installation and maintenance. The rapid increase in students and demand for additional classes in bidding and estimating, management, construction, etc. exceeds available faculty that are teaching in this area. This necessitates that curriculum changes be made in other areas.

Turf has a large and stable student population. Demand is high for our graduates in turf to manage golf courses, recreation fields, and sod production, or work in the pesticide industry just to name a few opportunities.

Public Horticulture is a relatively new major for our department. Students in this major will manage arboreta, botanical gardens, and public horticulture areas in such areas as zoos, city parks, theme parks, etc. We have only graduated a few students in this new major, but many have entered very prestigious jobs.

The number of students majoring in production horticulture is declining, especially in those with an emphasis in

the edible crops. Students are selecting careers in more of the value-added (processing), service/maintenance and recreational fields of horticulture and landscape industries. These industries are forecasted to grow somewhere between 7-15% over the next 15 years. Therefore, we are reevaluating all our course offerings and teaching assignments. Courses will be consolidated or dropped to allow new courses to be offered in areas where student demand is greatest.

This briefly summarizes several days of discussions and planning to meet new challenges and opportunities. We must be responsive to the needs of our clientele, and at the same time be realistic about what resources are available.

Understanding Vivipary

***Eric T. Stafne, Extension Horticulturist
Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Dept.***

I know it is not quite yet harvest season, but everything a pecan grower does throughout the year is culminated by harvest; so, in actuality, harvest is always on your mind. One harvest issue that may be rare in Oklahoma, but more common in other areas of the country is vivipary. Vivipary is the premature germination of the nut when still on the pecan tree, or a botanist might state, the precocious and continuous growth of the offspring when still attached to the maternal parent (Elmqvist and Cox, 1996). Many different species of flowering plants have some degree of vivipary. As Dr. Smith stated in an earlier issue of this newsletter (Smith, 2005) in his article about the 2005 pecan season, the condition of vivipary is associated with tree stress. These stresses can include drought and hot temperatures in the fall. During the 2005 season the fall was exceptionally warm (and dry) and therefore a few cases of vivipary were observed. For the month of November at Perkins, temperatures for the month ran about 4 °F above normal. However, it is not only high temperatures that contribute to the pre-germination, but rather an interaction of high and low temperatures (Wood, 2003). So, high daytime temperatures followed by cool nighttime temperatures speed up the germination process.

Vivipary can also be tied to particular pecan cultivars. 'Wichita', for example is especially susceptible to premature germination of the nut while still on the tree. The problem for 'Wichita' is overbearing, which stresses the tree and leads to viviparous conditions. Other cultivars such as 'Western Schley', 'Cheyenne' and 'Pawnee' may be susceptible if conditions are right. Work done at Texas A&M showed that cold hardy cultivars used as pollinizers helped to substantially reduce pre-germination of the seeds in more

vivipary-prone cultivars (Wood, 2003). Since most of Oklahoma already uses these cold hardy cultivars, it is unlikely that we will ever see vivipary on a large scale throughout the state. Other conditions that contribute to vivipary are moisture stress, nutritional status of the tree, and heavy crop loads. Prevention can be done by crop load thinning and early harvesting, as well as making sure that the pecan trees have adequate soil moisture during kernel fill.

The real problems associated with early germination in pecans are losses in nut quality and flavor. Embryo rot, a blackening around the embryo region of the nut, occurs when germination is taking place which results in a breakdown of some of the kernel tissues. Therefore, the damage of embryo rot, including discoloration and poor flavor, can be done without the visual symptoms of vivipary (emergence of the radical).

Literature cited

Elmqvist, T. and P.A. Cox. 1996. The evolution of vivipary in flowering plants. *Oikos* 77:3-9.

Smith, M.W. 2005. 2005 pecan season. In: M.W. Smith (ed). OPGA newsletter vol. XLVI no. 4:6-7.

Wood, B. 2003. Vivipary. *The Pecan Grower*. Vol XIV no. 3:6-7.

Pecan Statistics

***Michael Smith
Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Dept.***

The following are some figures that should be self explanatory. The data source was the most recent U.S. and Oklahoma farm statistics from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (<http://www.nass.usda.gov/index.asp>).

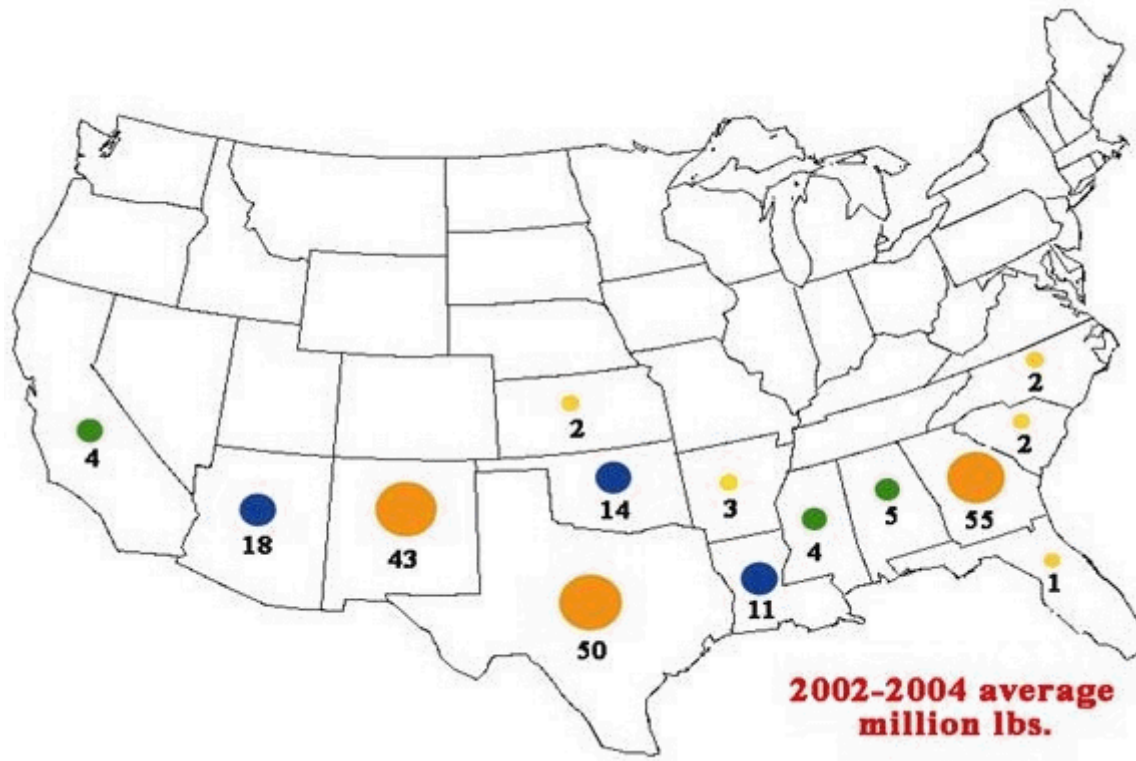
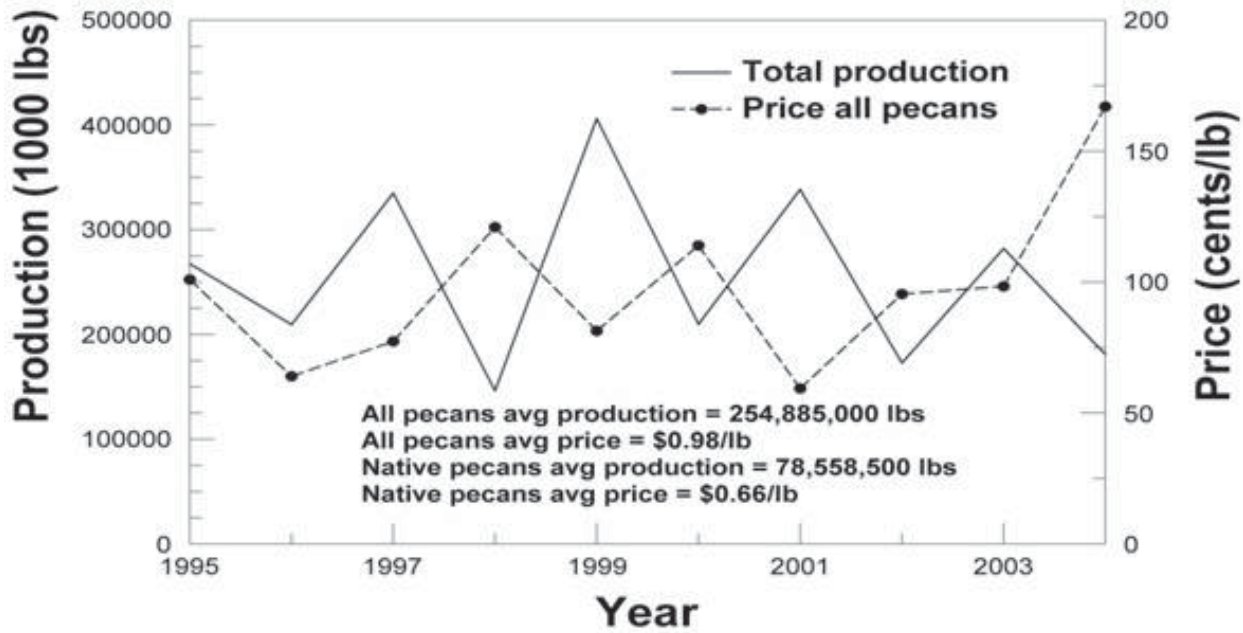
Oklahoma pecan production is the most erratic in the nation. This is probably associated with Oklahoma production being dominated by native pecan that typically receive less management than the typical cultivar orchard. Oklahoma's pecan orchards tend to be smaller in size than in other states suggesting more part-time farmers with less available equipment and labor to meet the needs of an intensely managed orchard.

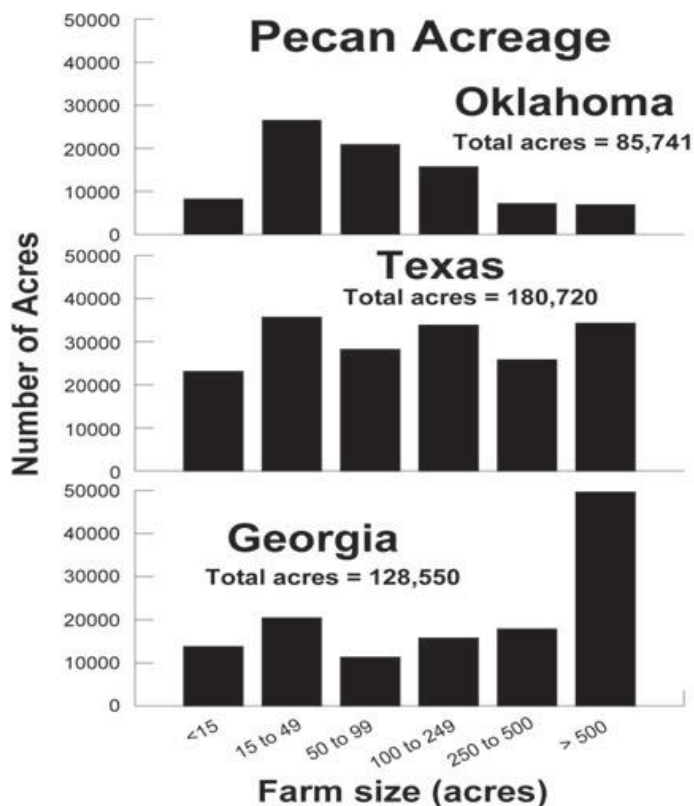
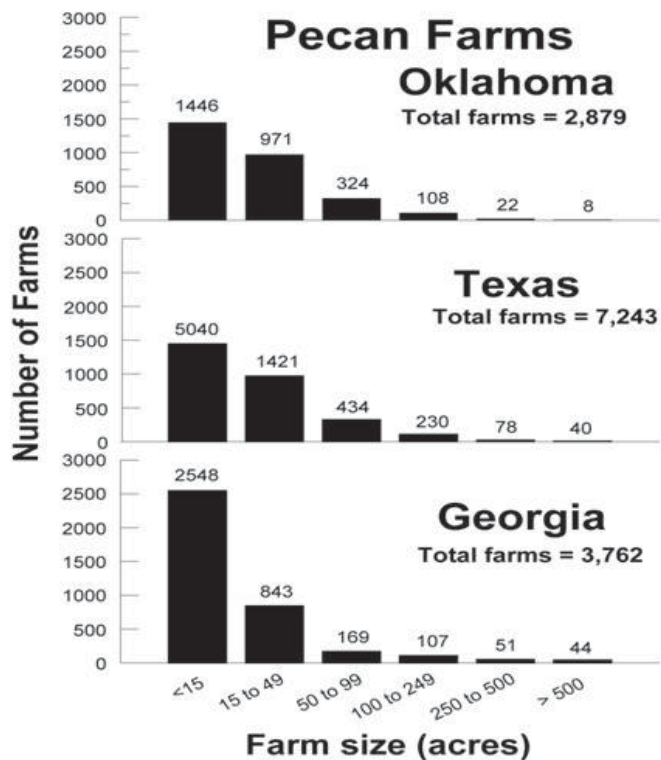
Based on a 5-year production average, Oklahoma ranks 5th in total pecan production. If the production average is extended to 10 years, then Oklahoma ranks 4th, ahead of Arizona and behind Georgia, Texas and New Mexico.

Oklahoma's production should be increasing. Recent statistics indicate that about 40% of Oklahoma's pecan acreage is non-bearing. The non-bearing acres are made up of both young planted orchards that have not begun to

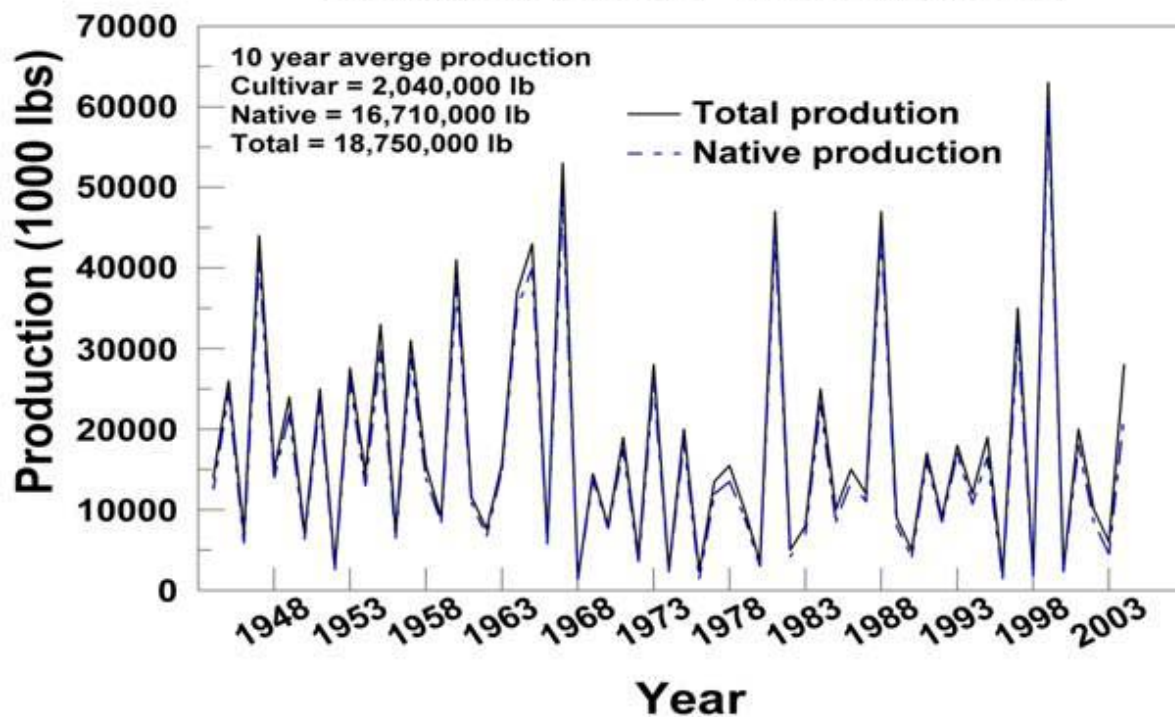
produce and native trees that have not been developed into productive orchards. Other statistics indicate that the most frequently planted cultivar orchard in Oklahoma is 40 acres. Numerous orchards in the 40-acre size range have been planted in recent years. Many of these new orchards are irrigated and intensely managed. This production should begin to change the characteristics of Oklahoma's pecan industry. (See following figures.)

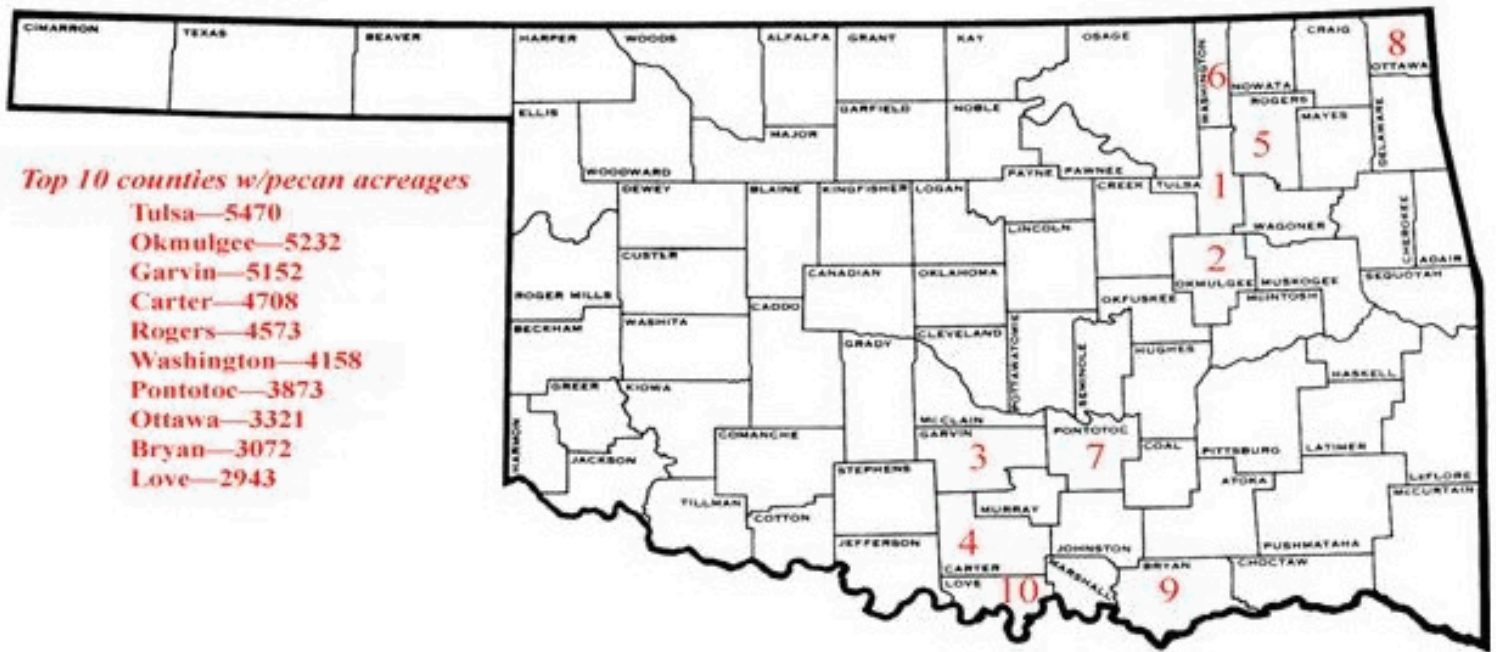
U.S. Pecan Production and Price



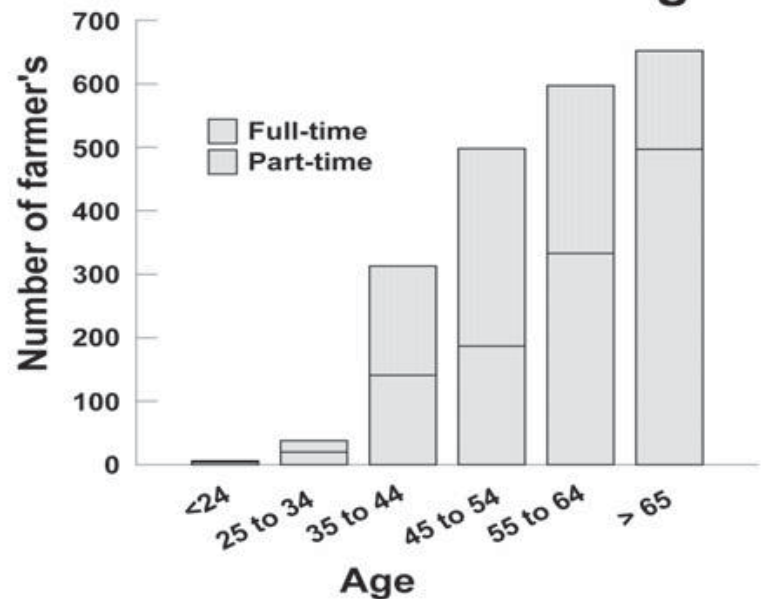
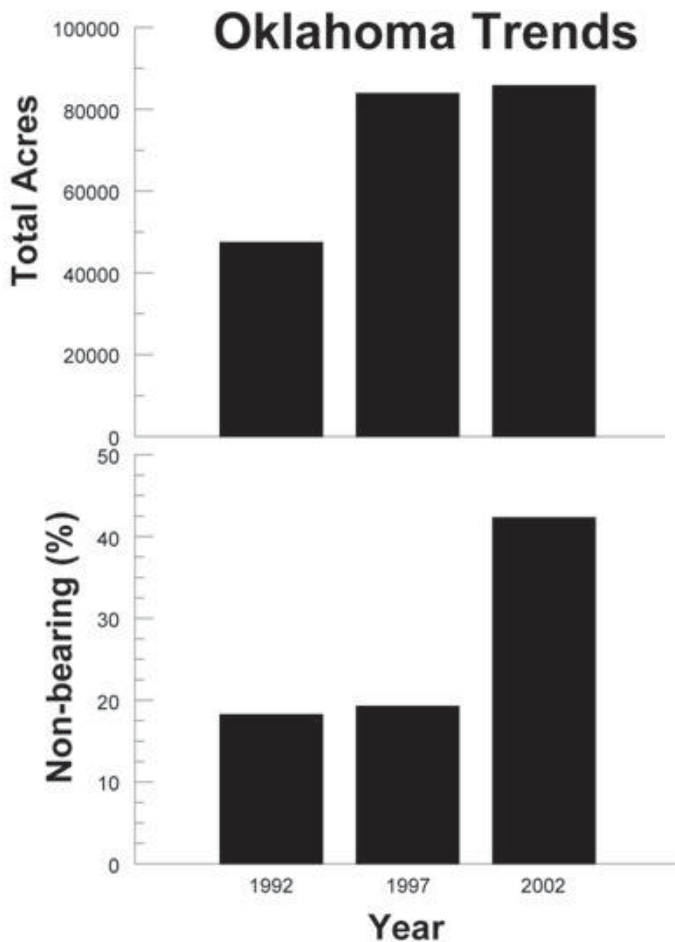


Oklahoma Production





Pecan Farmer's Age



Flying Squirrel Damage

Michael Smith

Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Dept.

Flying squirrels (Fig. 1a and 1b) are small, about 1/2 the size of a fox squirrel, nocturnal rodents. They frequently go unseen, and their tree damage puzzles many. Flying squirrels feed on the tender bark, girdling the branches of pecan and other tree species. The girdled limbs then die. The damage is most apparent on young trees since they have a smaller canopy making limb death more noticeable and the limbs are closer making the damage easier to see.

Occasionally, the damage is mistaken for deer browsing. However, deer eat the leaves and very tender shoots while flying squirrels eat the bark and not the leaves or entire twigs. Also, when scouting the area, damage can usually be found well out of a deer's reach. Fox and Gray Squirrels occasionally feed on tender bark, primarily during early Spring when other food is unavailable.

Flying squirrels eat a variety of items, in addition to the bark off your trees. These include tree mast crops including acorn (red oak, black oak, mossycup oak, white oak, pin oak, etc.); hickory nut (shagbark, bitternut, pignut); pecan; walnuts; beech nut; horsechestnut; hazelnut; etc., seeds of various species, insects (beetles, moths and their larvae, etc.), spiders, slugs, snails, tree and shrub buds, flowers (tree, shrub, herb) and fruits of many trees and shrubs, fungi, bird eggs, nestlings, and tree sap.

Flying squirrels normally live in large trees with a cavity for a den (Fig. 2). Observation of the den tree normally reveals feeding activity with small dead branches scattered throughout the tree. Other damaged trees will be within the immediate vicinity of the den tree.

Sightings of flying squirrels are rare since they are nocturnal. Producers rarely know that they are in the area, or even that flying squirrels are native in Oklahoma. Flying squirrels venture out near dusk and may be sighted during that time. I was reared on a farm in eastern Oklahoma. While we were young, my brother and I spent a substantial amount of time fishing at a stream near our house. A large den of flying squirrels was located next to one of our favorite fishing spots, and we frequently observed their activities about dusk.

Flying squirrels are rarely caught in the leg hold traps used for control of gray and fox squirrels. Consult the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Wildlife Services for available control measures.

Fig. 1b. Flying squirrel gliding to another site.



Fig. 1a. Flying squirrel on limb.



Fig. 2. Flying squirrel in a den.



Potato Leaf Hopper

Michael Smith

Horticulture & Landscape Architecture Dept.

Potato leaf hopper is a pest that attacks developing foliage in the spring. Feeding by the hopper causes leaf distortion characterized by cupping, mottling, with occasional death of the leaflet tip and smaller leaves (Fig. 1). Observations suggested that potato leaf hopper may prefer certain cultivars. Leaf damage in 2006 caused by potato leaf hopper was extensive on 'Kanza' and 'Giles', but 'Pawnee' had few symptoms. Another possibility is that

the pesticide application was properly timed for control on 'Pawnee' but not on 'Giles' and 'Kanza'. Lorsban® was applied on the same date on the three cultivars against such pests as pecan nut casebearer, hickory shoot curculio, leaf and stem phylloxera, sawfly, pecan catocala, and potato leaf hopper. At the time of application, growth was about 2 inches long and the first leaves on 'Pawnee' were beginning to unfurl. Buds on 'Kanza' were expanded about ¾ inch long and 'Giles' about ½ inch. Development of 'Kanza' and 'Giles' was about 1-week behind 'Pawnee'. This difference in shoot development may have been sufficient to achieve potato leaf hopper control on 'Pawnee' but not on 'Kanza' or 'Giles'. There were no apparent differences among cultivars in control of the other pecan pests.



Fig. 1. Potato leaf hopper damage on pecan.

Congratulations to each of the 2005 Pecan Show Winners!

Best of Show was exhibited by Dick Hoffman, Stillwater, OK - Pawnee 58.6% kernel and 41.9 nuts/lb.

The Largest Pecan was a Podsednik (24.5 nuts/lb) entered by Dick Hoffman, Stillwater, OK.

Highest % Kernel pecan was awarded to Dick Hoffman's Gratex with 63.3% kernel.

The Champion Native was entered by Kylee Stewart, Tillman County. The seedling was 95.5 nuts/lb and 48.5 % Kernel.

Special Congratulations

Special congratulations to the OPGA Growers of the Year! Honors were given to Virginia Merritt Autry and Jean Ann Casey, owners of Pecans of Merritt, in Kingfisher County. Both Virginia and Jean Ann have been very active members of the OPGA and successful growers. They represented the pecan industry in the magazine Oklahoma Today this last year.

Dr. William McGlynn was presented with the Herman Hinrichs Pecan Citation Award for his contributions to the pecan industry at the 2006 annual meeting. William has participated in the Pecan Management Course each year as well as the annual meetings. He provides growers with sanitation and labeling requirements for pecans.

OPGA 2006 Pecan Food Show

America's Best Value Inn, Shawnee, OK

Adult Division

Pecan Pies

Grand Champion – Mary Newkirk, Miami, OK

Class A – Standard

1st Place – Betty Bryan, Shawnee, OK - Pecan Pie

2nd Place – Michael Lynn, Okmulgee, OK - Pecan Pie

3rd Place – Andrea Bryant, Stillwater, OK – Pecan Pie

Class B – Other Pies

1st Place – Mary Newkirk, Miami, OK – Pecan Caramel Turtle Tart

2nd Place – Ruth Ann Hightower, Ralston, OK – Lemon Pecan Pie

3rd Place – Anita Johnson, Tahlequah, OK – Decadent Triple-layer Mud Pie

Pecan Cakes

Grand Champion – Marcy Luter, Shawnee, OK

Class A – Uniced

1st Place – Marcy Luter, Shawnee, OK – Pecan Coffee Cake

2nd Place – Janice Grundmann, Shawnee, OK – Amaretto Pecan Cake

3rd Place – Kathryn Schoenecke, Meeker, OK – Hershey Bar Cake

Class B – Iced

1st Place – Ruth Ann Hightower, Ralston, OK – Italian Chocolate Cream Cake

2nd Place – Janice Cranor, Bartlesville, OK – Pecan Rum Cake

3rd Place – Marcy Luter, Shawnee, OK – Raspberry Sponge Torte

Pecan Breads

Grand Champion – Elece Hollis, Boynton, OK*

Class A – Quick Breads

1st Place – Marcy Luter, Shawnee, OK – Pumpkin Pecan Loaves

2nd Place – Andrea Bryant, Stillwater, OK – Applesauce Pecan Bread

3rd Place – Anita Johnson, Tahlequah, OK – Pecan Pie Mini Muffins

Class B – Yeast Bread

1st Place – Elece Hollis, Boynton, OK – Prune Pecan Filled Sweet Bread*

Class C – Rolls

1st Place – Elece Hollis, Boynton, OK – Pecan Cinnamon Rolls

2nd Place – Bill Mackin, Norman, OK – Pecan Wheat Germ Biscuits

Pecan Cookies

Grand Champion – Janice Grundmann, Shawnee, OK

Class A – Cookies

1st Place – Kathryn Schoenecke, Meeker, OK – Dishpan Cookies

2nd Place – Louise Bryant, Ada, OK – Pecan Stix Plain and Fancy

3rd Place – Kathryn Floyd, Ada, OK – Pecan Sandies

Class B – Brownies

1st Place – Janice Grundmann, Shawnee, OK – Cookie Dough Brownies

2nd Place – Anita Johnson, Tahlequah, OK – Rocky Road Brownies

3rd Place – Marcy Luter, Shawnee, OK – Chocolate Dipped Brownies

Pecan Candy

Grand Champion – Andrea Bryant, Stillwater, OK*

Class A – Fudge

1st Place – Andrea Bryant, Stillwater, OK - Chocolate Pecan Fudge

Class B – Brittle & Pralines

1st Place – Andrea Bryant, Stillwater, OK – Pecan Brittle*

2nd Place – Michael Lynn, Okmulgee, OK – Pecan Brittle

3rd Place – Betty Bryan, Shawnee, OK – Pecan Brittle

Class C – Divinity

1st Place – Andrea Bryant, Stillwater, OK - Divinity

Pecan Meats

Grand Champion – Betty Bryan, Shawnee, OK

Class A – Salted & Spiced

1st Place – Betty Bryan, Shawnee, OK – Spiced

Pecans

2nd Place – Janice Grundmann, Shawnee, OK – Bar-B-Q Pecans

3rd Place – Andrea Bryant, Stillwater, OK – Spiced Pecans

Class B – Candied

1st Place – Kathryn Floyd, Ada, OK – Boston Baked Beans

2nd Place – Andrea Bryant, Stillwater, OK – Southern Candy Pecans

3rd Place – Kathryn Schoenecke, Meeker, OK – Sugar Cinnamon Coated Pecans

Pecan Specialty Foods

Grand Champion – Louise Bryant, Ada, OK

Class A – Desserts

1st Place – Louise Bryant, Ada, OK – Pecan Cobbler

2nd Place – Janice Grundmann, Shawnee, OK – Honey Pecan Cheesecake

3rd Place – Marcy Luter, Shawnee, OK – Chunky Chocolate Pecan Bars

Class B – Non-desserts

1st Place – Linda Bryant, Stillwater, OK – Cheese Pecan Wafers

2nd Place – Andrea Bryant, Stillwater, OK – Pecan Corn Muffins

Junior Division**Pecan Pies**

Grand Champion – Jamie Schoenecke, Meeker, OK

Class B – Other Pies

1st Place – Jamie Schoenecke, Meeker, OK – Chocolate Pecan Pie

Pecan Cakes

Grand Champion – Olivia Hamilton, Allen, OK

Class B – Iced

1st Place – Olivia Hamilton, Allen, OK – Chocolate Sheath Cake

Pecan Cookies

Grand Champion – Jamie Schoenecke, Meeker, OK

Class A – Cookies

1st Place – Jamie Schoenecke, Meeker, OK – Dishpan Cookies

Class B – Brownies

1st Place – Olivia Hamilton, Allen, OK – Chocolate Brownies



2006 OPGA Conference

Janice Landgraf, Treasurer

Below are some figures concerning the OPGA and the annual conference.

OPGA currently has 332 paid members.

We had 223 attending the conference recently held in Shawnee.

The food auction raised \$ 3,350.00 with the silent auction raising \$1,840.00 for a total of \$5,190.00 raised for Research.

Sponsors for the OPGA 3 day conference include:

Bayer CropScience

Chisolm Trail Farm Credit

Estes, Inc.

Farm Credit Services of East Central Oklahoma

First Bank of Chandler

Oklahoma Association of Electric Co-Op

Savage Equipment Co.

Vision Bank

Womack Nursery

Fear No Weevil – The Continuing Saga

Phil Mulder – OSU Extension Entomologist

In July, significant amounts of rainfall across much of the state resulted in many pecan producers becoming concerned about pecan weevil emergence. Several things must be considered before everyone presses the panic button about early emergence. First, the pecan weevil is native to Oklahoma, just like the pecan tree; therefore, many hundreds of years of co-evolution have resulted in an insect life cycle that is in synchrony with fruit maturity of its host. Second, early treatment with conventional insecticides, under the present hot, dry conditions have often resulted in appreciable increases in aphid populations, which are already making their presence known with honeydew secretions on leaves. Third, since adult pecan weevil longevity is somewhat short-lived (averaging around 13-19 days) much of the early emergence will not guarantee a population two years from now. Finally, feeding by adult pecan weevils is rather limited. Prior to shell hardening (July 31- August 15), male and female weevils will destroy an average of about 0.23 and 0.29 nuts per day, respectively. This amounts to about one pecan every four days for each weevil.

Pecans punctured prior to shell hardening will generally fall from the tree; however, nuts fed on after this time will often remain green and adhere to the tree past normal harvest. Nuts affected by feeding of male pecan weevils rarely exhibit any penetration of the shuck; therefore, this shallow probing only causing slight scars on the shells but no dam-

age to the kernel. In contrast, punctures made by adult female pecan weevils after shell hardening result in “stick-tights” or blackened pits on the kernel meat. Stick-tights are caused by female weevils penetrating through the cotyledonus layer during the gel stage of nut development. Blackened pits or spots form when punctures from weevils only penetrate into the cotyledonus layer. This latter form of damage can result in a loss of 10-50% of the edible kernels and some very dissatisfied customers that bite into these very bitter-tasting nutmeats.

The more important concern about early emerging pecan weevils might be related to post-emergent longevity. The current crop is certainly not ready for oviposition by female weevils. However, the question arises, how long can they live and is there a chance of increased longevity when early emergence occurs? While the longevity picture presented above is probably quite accurate it does not reveal the extremes, only the averages. Subsequent studies in Oklahoma found that weevils that emerged earlier in the season had a greater life span than those that emerged later in the season. Female and male weevils that emerged early in the season (July 21-August 8) on large seeded cultivars, lived 38.2 and 30.9 days longer than their counterparts that emerged late (September 1-17) in the season. Although this information may paint a bleak picture of what could happen, early control measures may cause an even bleaker scenario to develop. Hot, dry conditions which favor aphid buildup are quite common now and any use of broad-spectrum insecticides could result in aphid flare-ups. Aphid populations exceeded thresholds considerably last year when conditions turned hot and dry. Early applications of insecticides did not help the situation, with subsequent populations reaching or exceeding 500 blackmargined aphids per compound leaf. Early and intense pressure from aphids can result in early defoliation which can have two consequences. First, early defoliation can result in a lack of filling of the present crop, but more importantly, whenever significant leaf loss occurs before October 15, next year’s flower set can be dramatically affected.

The bottom line to this discussion on early emergent populations of pecan weevils is don’t press the panic button just yet. Although some losses may be experienced from feeding by adult populations, the real targets for control are female weevils before they begin laying eggs in pecan. In Oklahoma, the timing of this event is well linked to nut maturity and should be carefully considered when the pecan reaches the dough stage. In Oklahoma, this occurs from the third week in August to the first two weeks in September. Trapping of adult weevil populations using Circle traps and careful monitoring of nut development can help growers hone in on the specific target date.

2005 Oklahoma State Pecan Show Results							
<i>Becky Carroll, Extension Assistant</i>							
First Name	Last Name	Class	Variety	kernel %	nuts/lb	County	Placing
Tom	Lee	02 - Barton	Barton	56.8	49.7	Payne	1
Dick	Hoffman	02 - Barton	Barton	54.1	49.1	Payne	2
Teresa	Olivas	03 - Burkett	Burkett	59.9	53.8	Tillman	1
Travis	Wilson	03 - Burkett	Burkett	43.7	81.7	Okfuskee	2
Fred	Foster	03 - Burkett	Burkett	50.2	83.4	Tillman	
Dick	Hoffman	04 - Cheyenne	Cheyenne	56.7	54.7	Payne	1
Merritt Fams		04 - Cheyenne	Cheyenne	56.2	55.7	Kingfisher	2
Ralph	Burba	07 - Gaking	Gaking	52.9	39.3	Tillman	1
Tom	Lee	09 - Kanza	Kanza	51.0	57.7	Payne	1
Dick	Hoffman	09 - Kanza	Kanza	50.1	55.5	Payne	2
Tom	Lee	12 - Maramec	Maramec	59.4	40.6	Payne	1
Merritt Fams		12 - Maramec	Maramec	58.9	38.5	Kingfisher	2
Dick	Hoffman	12 - Maramec	Maramec	57.7	43.5	Payne	3
Mike	Mayer	12 - Maramec	Maramec	56.8	37.8	Muskogee	
Gary	Britton	12 - Maramec	Maramec	58.4	49.1	Tillman	
Mike	Mayer	13 - Mohawk	Mohawk	58.1	27.9	Muskogee	1
Dick	Hoffman	13 - Mohawk	Mohawk	57.4	31.8	Payne	2
Dorothy	Bennett	13 - Mohawk	Mohawk	58.8	34.9	Okfuskee	3
Merritt Fams		13 - Mohawk	Mohawk	57.2	35.7	Kingfisher	
Dick	Hoffman	14 - Pawnee	Pawnee	58.6	41.9	Payne	1
Tom	Lee	14 - Pawnee	Pawnee	57.5	40.1	Payne	2
Carole	Smith	14 - Pawnee	Pawnee	56.8	42.1	Pawnee	3
Merritt Fams		14 - Pawnee	Pawnee	58.9	42.7	Kingfisher	
Mike	Mayer	14 - Pawnee	Pawnee	59.1	39.7	Muskogee	
Tom	Lee	18 - Shawnee	Shawnee	54.7	46.6	Payne	1
Dick	Hoffman	19 - Shoshoni	Shoshoni	54.0	41.2	Payne	1
Merritt Fams		19 - Shoshoni	Shoshoni	50.9	39.8	Kingfisher	2
Dick	Hoffman	21 - Squirrel's Delight	Squirrel	55.6	53.5	Payne	1
Alison	Green	22 - Stuart	Stuart	47.3	62.4	Okfuskee	1
Kylee	Stewart	22 - Stuart	Stuart	44.9	52.6	Tillman	2
Dillon	Defoor	22 - Stuart	Stuart	48.2	59.5	Tillman	3
Dick	Hoffman	23 - Success	Success	53.7	55.4	Payne	1
Tyler	Zuniga	23 - Success	Success	48.6	58.6	Tillman	2
Merritt Fams		24 - Western	Western	58.5	51.5	Kingfisher	1
Abby	Espinosa	24 - Western	Western	56.0	78.8	Tillman	2
Travis	Wilson	24 - Western	Western	44.0	72.2	Okfuskee	3
Tom	Lee	25 - Wichita	Wichita	62.6	44.2	Payne	1
Tom	Lee	26 - Other	Randolph	55.2	40.1	Payne	1
Frank & Janice	Cranor	26 - Other	Major	51.1	72.5	Washington	2
Tom	Lee	26 - Other	Clark II	58.7	37.6	Payne	3
Tom	Lee	26 - Other	Oconee	56.2	39.4	Payne	
Tom	Lee	26 - Other	Creek	53.2	40.1	Payne	
Dick	Hoffman	26 - Other	Podsednik	54.1	24.5	Payne	
Dick	Hoffman	26 - Other	Oconee	55.4	35.2	Payne	
Dick	Hoffman	26 - Other	Creek	51.6	46.9	Payne	
Dick	Hoffman	26 - Other	Gratex	63.3	51.8	Payne	
Kylee	Stewart	28 - Seedling	Native	48.5	95.5	Tillman	1
Kameron	Stewart	28 - Seedling	Native	47.7	95.9	Tillman	2
Mariah	Burden	28 - Seedling	Native	46.8	110.2	Okfuskee	3
Dorothy	Bennett	28 - Seedling	Native	42.4	64.2	Okfuskee	
Dalton	Shandy	28 - Seedling	Native	38.9	84.3	Okfuskee	
Abby	Espinosa	28 - Seedling	Native	46.7	90.7	Tillman	



Pecan Handling Procedures: Inshell Containers

*Endorsed on April 21, 2006 by the
National Pecan Shellers Association Board of Directors*

Dear Growers, Accumulators, Brokers, Shellers:

Growing awareness of allergens and the importance of avoiding cross contact between tree nuts and other known allergens has prompted pecan handlers across the nation to make appropriate changes in their facilities and the way they hold, ship, receive, store and process pecans. As part of their commitment to deliver safe, delicious, properly-labeled pecan products to the consumer, members of the National Pecan Shellers Association need the cooperation of the entire distribution channel – growers, accumulators, cleaning plants and processors.

Through NPSA, a “Container Awareness Task Force” with industry-wide representation has been established. Serving on the Task Force are:

Shellers: Marty Harrell, Harrell Nut Co. (Chairman)
Lalo Soria, John B. Sanfilippo & Sons
Bob Whaley, Whaley Pecan Co.

Accumulators: J.B. Easterlin, Easterlin Pecan Co.
Geoff Hamil, Renfroe Pecan Co.
Ron Cannon, BL Pecan Co.

Growers: David Salopek, Salopek Farms
Tom Stevenson, Schermer Pecan Co.

With guidance from the task force, the NPSA Board of Directors has endorsed the following Association policy related to pecan handling procedures:

Beginning with 2006 crop, inshell pecans must be held, shipped, stored and received in pecan-dedicated containers (paper, cardboard, polypropylene, burlap sacks, bags, boxes or totes). Containers that have been used for any purpose other than the transportation and storage of pecans will no longer be accepted.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Vickie Mabry at NPSA Headquarters at 404/252-3663.

Homer Henson
Louisville Pecan
Chairman, NPSA

Jasper Sanfilippo, Jr.
John B. Sanfilippo & Son
Vice Chairman, NPSA

Helen Watts
Young Pecan
Secretary, NPSA

Marty Harrell
Harrell Pecan
Treasurer, NPSA

Bill Summers
Golden Kernel Pecan
Past Chairman, NPSA

OPGA Pecan Source List

Due to a large number of requests for pecans, pecan related items and services, a list of OPGA members has been compiled. To be included on the web page, a grower must fill out the following information and return to the address below. Growers must be current OPGA members.

The list of growers and services is divided by county. This directory will be a great tool for growers and consumers. The list is currently available at the following web site - <http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/pecan/opga/pecansource.pdf>.

If your business is already on the list, there is no need to send in a new form unless changes are required.

Please fill out completely and return form to:

Oklahoma State University
Becky Carroll, Horticulture Dept
360 Ag Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078

Name of Business _____

Owner or contact person _____

County where business is located _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Website _____

Circle all that you would like to include:

Native Pecans

Improved Cultivars

Retail Shop

Wholesale

Mail Order

Buyer

Custom Cracking

Custom Cleaning

Custom Processing

Custom Harvester

Custom Grafting

Graftwood Supplier

Custom Manager

Other _____

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 _____

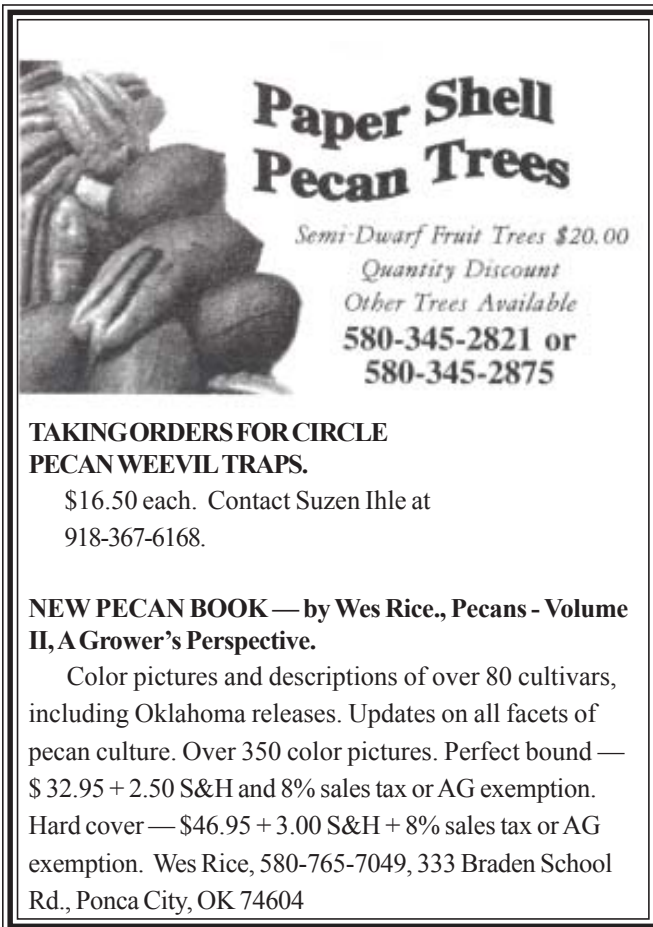
Phone (____) _____ email: _____

Renew New Member

Grower Member \$50.00

Industry Member \$125.00

Extension/Research/Student \$40.00



Paper Shell Pecan Trees
Semi-Dwarf Fruit Trees \$20.00
Quantity Discount
Other Trees Available
580-345-2821 or
580-345-2875

TAKING ORDERS FOR CIRCLE PECAN WEEVIL TRAPS.
\$16.50 each. Contact Suzen Ihle at 918-367-6168.

NEW PECAN BOOK — by Wes Rice., Pecans - Volume II, A Grower's Perspective.
Color pictures and descriptions of over 80 cultivars, including Oklahoma releases. Updates on all facets of pecan culture. Over 350 color pictures. Perfect bound — \$ 32.95 + 2.50 S&H and 8% sales tax or AG exemption. Hard cover — \$46.95 + 3.00 S&H + 8% sales tax or AG exemption. Wes Rice, 580-765-7049, 333 Braden School Rd., Ponca City, OK 74604

Return Service Requested

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