



OKLAHOMA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Michael Smith, Editor

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Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association is published 4 times per year and is a benefit of being an association member. Contact the Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association c/o Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, 358 Agriculture Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078-6027 for further information.

Research Keys to Continued Success

Charles Rohla, OPGA President

I hope everyone had a safe and successful harvest. The record high prices received this year for pecans have been a long-awaited relief for many growers. Ice storm and freeze damage has hurt production in many orchards over the past couple of years. With the higher prices and strong demand for pecans it is a critical time for growers to really focus on the future of the pecan industry. I will be representing Oklahoma pecan growers at two meetings in February. The first meeting will focus on the establishment of future research and extension priorities regarding production, processing/distribution, and consumer/retail markets. Industry representatives from Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Georgia representing all disciplines involved with the pecan industry will be in attendance. Outcomes from this meeting will be used to establish future research projects.

The second meeting will focus on the promotion of pecans to foreign markets including China, India, Europe and Dubai. The pecan industry has been granted funds to help with these endeavors. Georgia, Texas and New Mexico have agreed to provide \$75,000 for administrative support, first year needs and required matching to launch the program. Other states have been asked to contribute. This collaboration will enable the industry to apply for more funds to help promote pecans.

Further pecan research and improved marketing methods are crucial to the continued success of the pecan industry. If you have any ideas of future research or extension needs, or have any questions or comments about either meeting, please feel free to contact me at ctrohla@noble.org or 580-490-1253.

Sign Up for 2011 Fundamentals of Pecan Management Short Course

Eric T. Stafne, OSU Horticulture & Landscape Architecture

In the last issue of the newsletter I recapped some of the past pecan short courses. This time I don't want to talk about the past, but rather what is ahead in the future. The 2011 Fundamentals of Pecan Management short course will again be taught at the Cimarron Valley Research Station in Perkins. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the course, the concept is to provide an in-depth experience in the classroom and orchard for current, as well as prospective growers. We take the information on pecan management and prioritize it according to the season. For example, in the first class (March), we cover fertilization, pruning, and insect and disease management. For April we spend time on grafting, disease and insect management, and economics. May is de-

voted to weed control, pecan cultivars, improving native groves, PNC, and pecan scab. In June students are encouraged to attend the OPGA annual conference to interact with current growers and establish contacts. July is the month for leaf sampling, crop load estimates, irrigation, soils, weevil, and webworm. During the August class we have a field trip planned. As in past years we will head on out to Dick Hoffman's orchard to watch him crop load thin some of his 'Pawnee' trees. We also emphasize weevil control strongly in this month. September talks highlight orchard floor management, harvest preparation, marketing, and making a pecan nut board. The final class is held in October right in the full swing of harvest. We again trek on over to Dick Hoffman's and he takes us through harvest from tree to retail.

I lead the class but we have numerous guest speakers from OSU and from the industry to help convey all the information we can possibly pack into 7 classes. The format for the class is a practical mixture of lecture, discussion and experiential learning. All students also have the opportunity to access the online pecan course for free – what a deal! In all, students receive a notebook of reference material, the Pocket Guide to Pecan Diseases, Insects, and Other Disorders, a pecan variety board, rootstock trees, and a certificate at the end. Plus, the cost is nominal at \$250 per person.

If this is something you think you would like to attend please complete the registration form found here: <http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/pdf/2011pecanmgmt.pdf>. Course size is limited, so make sure to register early. Payment can be made by check or online (see registration brochure).

All in all I have enjoyed teaching this course the last 5 years and I look forward to seeing you in 2011.

Horticulture Pecan Research Endowment
Michael Smith
OSU Horticulture & Landscape Architecture

As of this writing contributions total \$58,950, and the Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association has pledged \$20,000. This is your opportunity to make a difference in the future of Oklahoma pecans and O.S.U. research and education. Creation of an Endowed Professorship will ensure that pecan research at O.S.U. continues indefinitely. Remember, our goal is to reach \$250,000 to get matching funds from the T. Boone Pickens gift and the State of Oklahoma. Checks should be made out to the **O.S.U. Foundation** and mailed to **Michael Smith, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, 358 Agricultural Hall, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater,**

OK 74078. Contributions to the Endowment are tax deductible.

Below is a list of those contributing to the Endowment.

2008

Paul and Maxine Haydon
Bert and Elizabeth Blumer
J.D. and Dwayne Scott
G.F. Parsons
Edward L. Boyd, Jr.
John Barnes
Henry Bellmon
Alvin and Debra Stein
Michael and Carole Smith
Virginia Merritt Autry
Tim Montz
Bag-A-Nut, LLC

2009

Joe Ihle
Diane Couch
Terry D. Powell
George Carlson
Dean McCraw
Carole and Max Matheson
Bill Ault
Glenn Taylor
Michael and Carole Smith
Williams Companies
Paul and Maxine Haydon

2010

Irvin R. (Bud) Blakley
Michael and Carole Smith
Bob Hightower
Joe Ihle
Bill Ihle

The 2010 Growing Season

Michael Smith
OSU Horticulture & Landscape Architecture

The growing season is ending with record prices and good, but not great yields. At the beginning of the year it looked like Oklahoma might have a 30 to 40 million pound crop, but as we all know, many things can happen between Spring and when they're in the barn.

During the Spring and early Summer northern Oklahoma experienced more rainfall than normal during June

and early July resulting in heavy disease pressure (Fig. 1). During one eight-day stretch it either rained or remained misty the entire time providing excellent conditions for scab infection. Orchards that were outside their protection window from applied fungicide suffered sustained severe scab infections on susceptible cultivars. One mistake that producers occasionally make is waiting until after the rain to apply the fungicide. The fungicides used on pecan prevent infections rather than cure infections, so it is imperative that they are applied before the infection occurs. Most of the fungicides in use today are absorbed by the leaf and shuck, so the chances of washing them off is minimal or non-existent assuming they were applied a sufficient time before the rain event.

The rest of Oklahoma was below or near normal rainfall until early July. When temperatures are hot, rainfall plentiful and the humidity is high such as occurred in early July, scab becomes a major problem rapidly. Although these areas did not have as much scab pressure as northern Oklahoma, scab was also a problem in that area.

Beginning in mid July, rainfall was scarce through August and early September. The effects of drought were exacerbated in northern Oklahoma by the copious shoot growth and foliage promoted by the plentiful spring rains. Late-season drought struck much of the pecan belt, from Georgia to Texas, resulting in poor shuck opening. Although initial shuck opening appeared to be a few days early in Oklahoma nuts opened very slowly over a longer than normal time. Some cultivars failed to open normally resulting in nut loss. The slow, incomplete opening appears to result from scab infections and particularly drought conditions at maturity.

Reports across Oklahoma suggest that pecan weevil damage was low. Hard dry soils delays adult pecan weevil from emerging, thus their time to infest nuts is shortened. Pecan literature indicates that about 90% of the pecan weevils have a two-year life cycle and 10% a three year life-cycle. In other words, an egg is laid, hatches, the larvae grow to maturity, emerge from the nut and burrow into the ground, pupate (change from a larvae to adult weevil), and then emerge as adults in two years. Others remain another year in the ground before emerging. Recent research by Jim Dutcher (personal communications) suggests that the ratio of two and three year life cycles in the population may be closer to 50:50 than 90:10. This would explain how weevil populations can be quite high two years after a near crop failure.

What kind of crop will next year bring? That is anyone's guess; however, I'm willing to make a few predictions. In

northern Oklahoma where Spring rains were heavy, orchards that were flooded frequently or for prolong periods will probably have a short crop next year. Spring flooding normally affects next year's crop more than the current crop. Most of the scab was on the shucks rather than the leaves, so scab will have a minimal impact on next year's crop. However, be aware that there is abundant inoculum for next year, so if conditions are favorable plan on battling scab. The copious growth resulting from abundant moisture in northern Oklahoma should favor a large crop next year if flooding was not a problem. Also trees I observed in central and southern Oklahoma appeared to be healthy at the end of the season, and late season drought appears to have a minimal impact on next year's crop, so I expect an average crop in that area. However, winter cold damage or spring frost damage is possible which would negatively impact crop predictions.

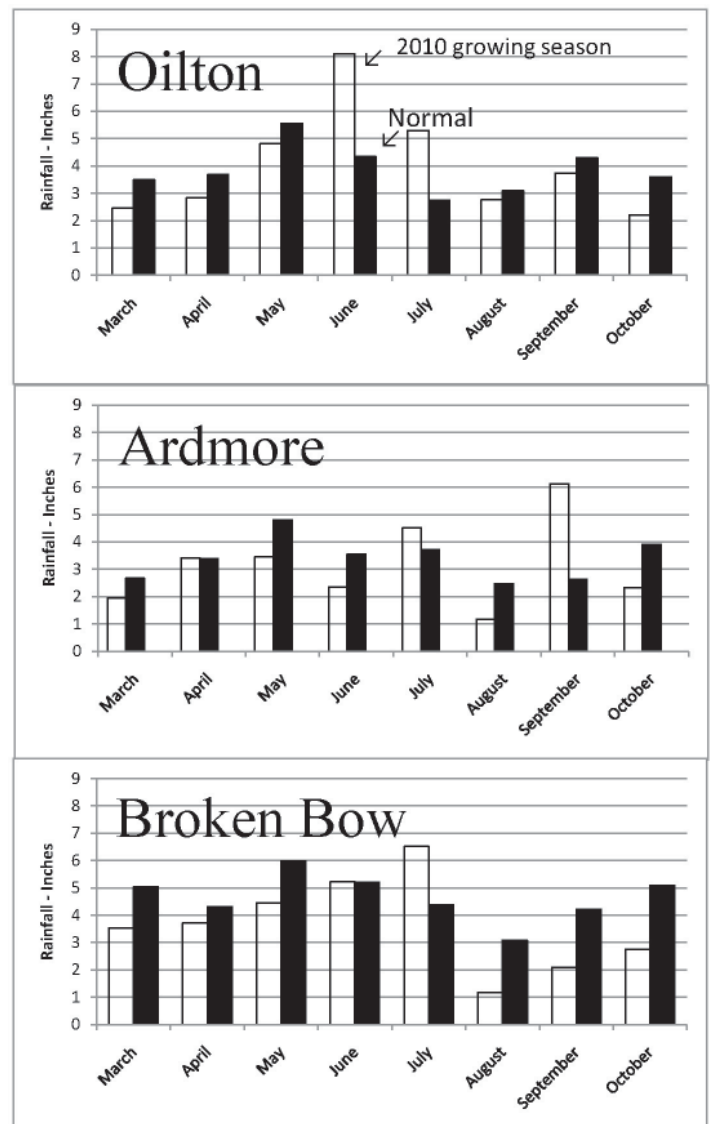


Fig. 1. Rainfall from March through October in 2010 and normal rainfall at Oilton, Ardmore and Broken Bow.

Some Results from the 2010 Oklahoma Pecan Fungicide Trial

Damon L. Smith

OSU Entomology & Plant Pathology

This season found us with high levels of scab in many areas of the state. High levels of humidity that seemed to stick with us all through the summer and warm temperatures resulted in impressive epidemics in many locations. If you watch the AgWeather Pecan Scab Advisor, you probably noted that the advisor recommended spraying quite a few times this season compared to other seasons. Areas near Stillwater, OK should have had at least 3 to 5 fungicides this season to adequately control pecan scab. I personally visited several commercial orchards near Stillwater this season that received at least that number of fungicide applications. Depending on the level of susceptibility of the cultivars being sprayed, I observed moderate-to-high levels of scab. Cultivars such as ‘Maramec’ had high levels of scab this season despite having several fungicide applications. Other cultivars such as ‘Pawnee’ fared a bit better at these same locations as compared to ‘Maramec’. With that said, we had a great year to test the efficacy of fungicides for control of scab in Oklahoma.

If you have been following the fungicide trial updates over the last year or so, you will know that we have been looking at various fungicide programs for efficacy here in Oklahoma. In 2009 we looked at 4 programs for control of pecan scab compared to a non-sprayed check. In order to back up some of the results we found in 2009 we repeated the study on the same block of trees in 2010. As you know, scientists like to “repeat and replicate” studies to be sure we have addressed the research question at hand. We “repeated” the treatments and left them nearly the same with just slight modifications. As you might remember from last season, the Quilt and Stratego programs were established to compare these two comparable formulations of fungicide. Both of these fungicides are mixes of two active ingredients, one of which is from the strobilurin class of fungicides and the other is from the demethylation inhibitor (DMI) class of fungicides. The late-season and early-season strobilurin programs were evaluated to test the validity of using this class of fungicides early in the season versus late in the season.

We also added two treatments to look at two new experimental products, which contain the active ingredient potassium phosphite. The ProPhyt and LBG-61 treatments presented in Table 1 outline the programs where these two products were used. ProPhyt is a product not yet labeled for use in pecans that is composed of potas-

sium phosphite alone. LBG-61 is an experimental product not yet labeled for pecans, which contains potassium phosphite plus tebuconazole (Folicur) in a pre-mix form. Potassium phosphite is usually referred to as the salts of phosphorus acid. Phosphorus is considered an essential macronutrient for many biological organisms, however, these phosphorus acid formulations of phosphorus do not act as fertilizers. Instead these forms of phosphorus have been found to be fungicides useful for controlling plant diseases caused by microorganisms commonly called “water molds” (Oomycetes) for many years. More recently, interest has shifted to using phosphorus acid products to control other plant diseases. This would be especially useful in pecans for controlling scab as we can always use a new active ingredient that might work in rotation with other currently available products.

Our 2010 studies were conducted at the Cimarron Valley Research Station located in Perkins, Oklahoma. We used the cultivar ‘Maramec’ grafted to ‘Colby’ rootstock. Plots were located on an “upland” area on fine sandy loam soil. Plots consisted of two trees and each plot was separated by at least one tree on each side to prevent between-treatment spray drift. First applications of fungicide were applied at the pre-pollination stage (catkins present, no flowering evident). Note that this spray is applied based on tree phenology, NOT based on the AgWeather Pecan Scab Advisor. In a previous article in the summer of 2010, I commented on the validity of these early applications. Subsequent fungicide applications were sprayed based on a modification of the AgWeather Pecan Scab Advisor available online. You will remember that the advisory predicts scab hours based on each hour where the temperature is greater than or equal to 70F and the relative humidity is greater than or equal to 90%. Based on preliminary research performed by my graduate student, Andrea Payne, we modified the advisory so that scab hours were based on each hour where the temperature is greater than or equal to 65F and the relative humidity is greater than or equal to 85%. The thresholds for scab hour accumulation were left untouched as is described in the “Learn More” section of the scab advisor website. This strategy resulted in the first spray being applied on April 28 (6 days earlier than last season) with subsequent sprays being applied on May 25, June 16, July 8, July 27, and August 19. This resulted in a total of 6 fungicide applications in 2010 compared to 5 applications in 2009. The requirement for an additional spray in 2010 makes sense, as the weather was more conducive for scab this season (warmer and higher humidity) than in 2009. Disease evaluation for each plot consisted of rating leaves and fruit for scab incidence (average percentage of leaves or fruit on eight branch terminals with at

least one scab lesion) and severity (average percentage of leaflet or fruit covered by scab lesions on eight branch terminals). Plots were harvested on November 8, 2010 using a tractor-mounted harvester. Pecans were dried to 4% moisture content and yield was determined for each plot on November 11, 2010.

Leaf ratings on September 10, 2010 indicated that there was moderate disease on leaves in non-treated control plots (Figure 1). Levels of leaflet severity were low, indicating that defoliation due to scab damage in the non-treated check plots was unlikely. Plots treated with the Stratego, Quilt, Early-season Strobilurin, and late-season Strobilurin fungicide programs significantly reduced leaf disease compared to the non-treated check plots. Plots treated with ProPhyt and LBG-61 had higher levels of leaf incidence than other fungicide programs, but offered a significant improvement in leaf scab control over not treating. Leaf severity in the ProPhyt and LBG-61 programs was comparable to that of the other fungicide programs.

Lowest levels of fruit scab incidence were observed in plots treated according to Quilt and early Strobilurin programs on September 10, 2010 (Figure 2). Plots treated with the Stratego program, ProPhyt and the late-season Strobilurin program had higher levels of fruit incidence than the Quilt program but were not statistically different from each other. Fruit incidence of the late-season Strobilurin program and LBG-61 were not significantly different from the non-treated control. Severity of fruit scab on September 10, 2010 was moderate in control plots. Typically values near 25% fruit severity are considered significant enough to cause yield loss and reduced kernel quality. Applying any of the other fungicide programs significantly reduced the level of fruit severity to non-damaging levels compared to the non-treated control. Best fungicide programs for controlling fruit severity were the Quilt, early-season Strobilurin, Stratego, and late-season Strobilurin programs. Level of control of fruit scab severity was somewhat lower in plots treated with ProPhyt, but severity values were not significantly different from the Stratego, and early- and late-season Strobilurin programs. Significantly more fruit severity was observed in plots treated with LBG-61. LBG-61 had the highest levels of fruit severity among the fungicide programs.

Yield was lowest for plots not treated with fungicide (Figure 3). Plots treated with ProPhyt yielded comparably to the non-treated control plots. Significantly greater yield was recorded for plots treated according to the Quilt, Stratego, LBG-61, and early-season Strobilurin programs, which were not different from each other. Yield from plots treated according to the late-season Strobilurin program

was not significantly different from any other treatment.

While it appears that the potassium phosphite programs did not perform as well as other fungicide programs, they did reduce disease levels and marginally improved yield (LBG-61 program) compared to the non-treated check. While it is never advised to use the same product for consecutive fungicide sprays, as we did in the LBG-61 and ProPhyt programs, these products might provide growers with another fungicide rotation option. Regardless of the fungicide program you choose to use next year, I would urge you to start early with a preventative program rather than wait for nut scab to be observed. By getting a head start on your spray program next year, you can prevent the early onset of scab in your grove during the shell initiation phase (most critical time of fruit development) and reduce yield loss and damage that is possible when scab epidem-

Table 1. Fungicide treatments evaluated for control of pecan scab in Oklahoma, 2010.

Treatment	Application Timing ²	Rate per Acre
<i>Quilt Program</i>		
Quilt	1	27.5 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	2	20.0 fl. oz.
Quilt	3	27.5 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	4	20.0 fl. oz.
Quilt	5	27.5 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	6	20.0 fl. oz.
<i>Stratego Program</i>		
Stratego	1	10.0 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	2	20.0 fl. oz.
Stratego	3	10.0 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	4	20.0 fl. oz.
Stratego	5	10.0 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	6	20.0 fl. oz.
<i>Early-Season Strobilurin Program</i>		
Headline	1	7.0 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	2	20.0 fl. oz.
Abound	3	12.3 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	4	20.0 fl. oz.
Headline	5	7.0 fl. oz.
Enable	6	8.0 fl. oz.
<i>Late-Season Strobilurin Program</i>		
Folicur	1	8.0 fl. oz.
Enable	2	8.0 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	3	20.0 fl. oz.
Enable	4	8.0 fl. oz.
Headline	5	7.0 fl. oz.
Topsin 4.5 FL	6	20.0 fl. oz.
<i>LBG-61 Program</i>		
Quilt	1	27.5 fl. oz.
LBG-61	2	32.0 fl. oz.
LBG-61	3	32.0 fl. oz.
LBG-61	4	32.0 fl. oz.
LBG-61	5	32.0 fl. oz.
Elast	6	51.0 fl. oz.
<i>ProPhyt Program</i>		
Quilt	1	27.5 fl. oz.
ProPhyt	2	40.0 fl. oz.
ProPhyt	3	40.0 fl. oz.
ProPhyt	4	40.0 fl. oz.
ProPhyt	5	40.0 fl. oz.
ProPhyt + Elast	6	40.0 fl. oz. + 25.0 fl. oz.
<i>Non-treated Check</i>		
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²Application number for each fungicide product, in a set of six fungicides per program, applied to control pecan scab.

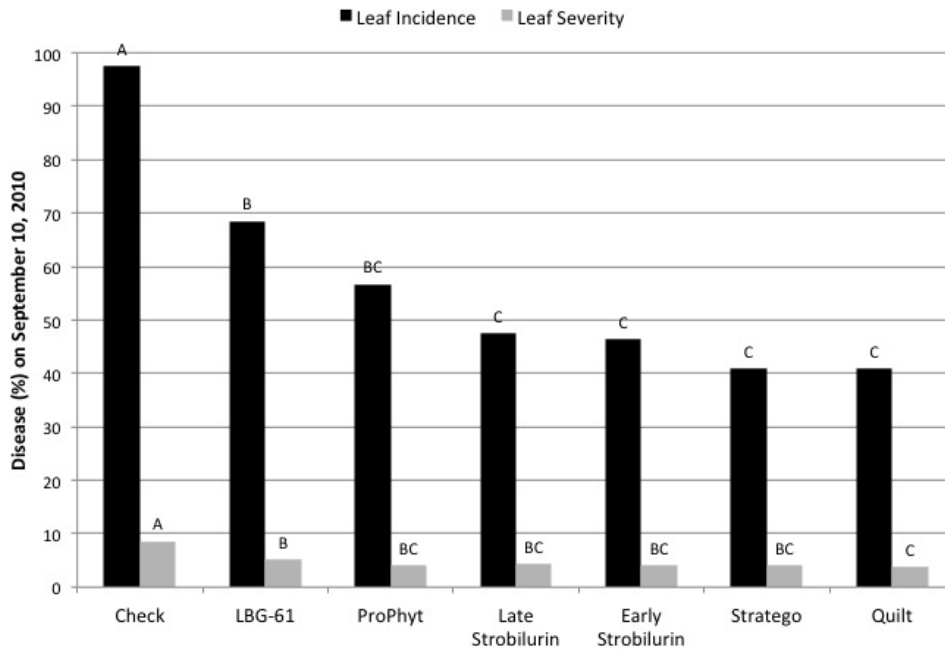


Figure 1. Leaf scab incidence and severity on September 10, 2010 on pecan trees treated with various fungicide programs. Leaf incidence is the average percentage of leaves on eight branch terminals with at least one scab lesion. Leaf severity is the average percentage of leaflets covered by scab lesions on eight branch terminals. Bars of the same data group, with like letters, are not statistically different from each other.

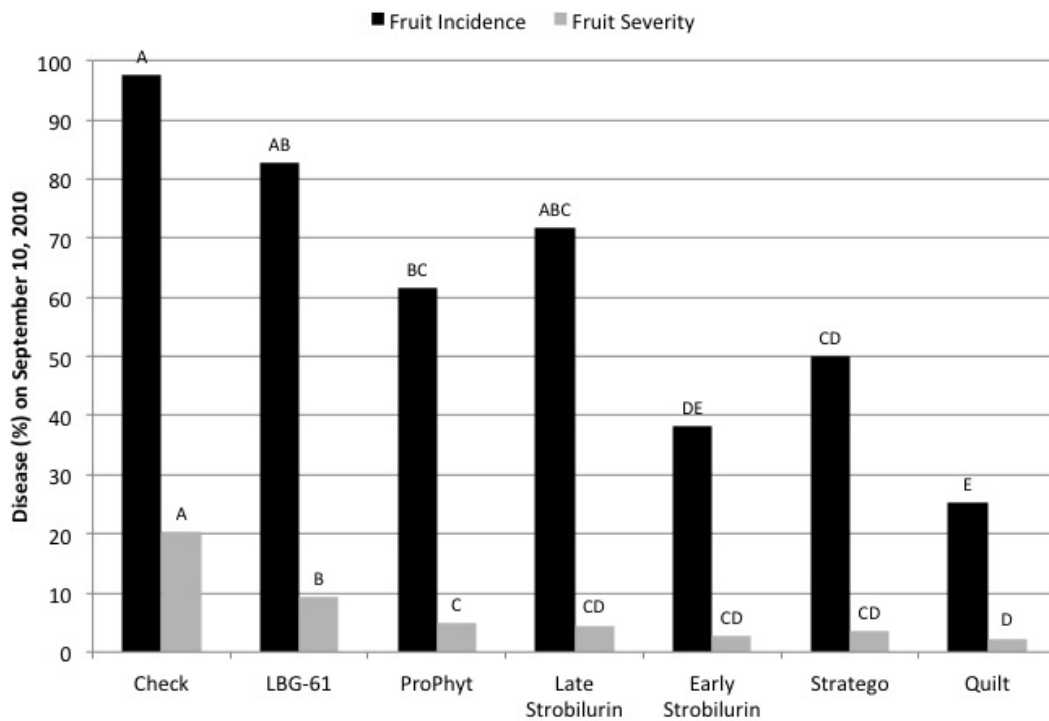


Figure 2. Fruit scab incidence and severity on September 10, 2010 on pecan trees treated with various fungicide programs. Fruit incidence is the average percentage of fruit on eight branch terminals with at least one scab lesion. Fruit severity is the average percentage of fruit covered by scab lesions on eight branch terminals. Bars of the same data group, with like letters, are not statistically different from each other.

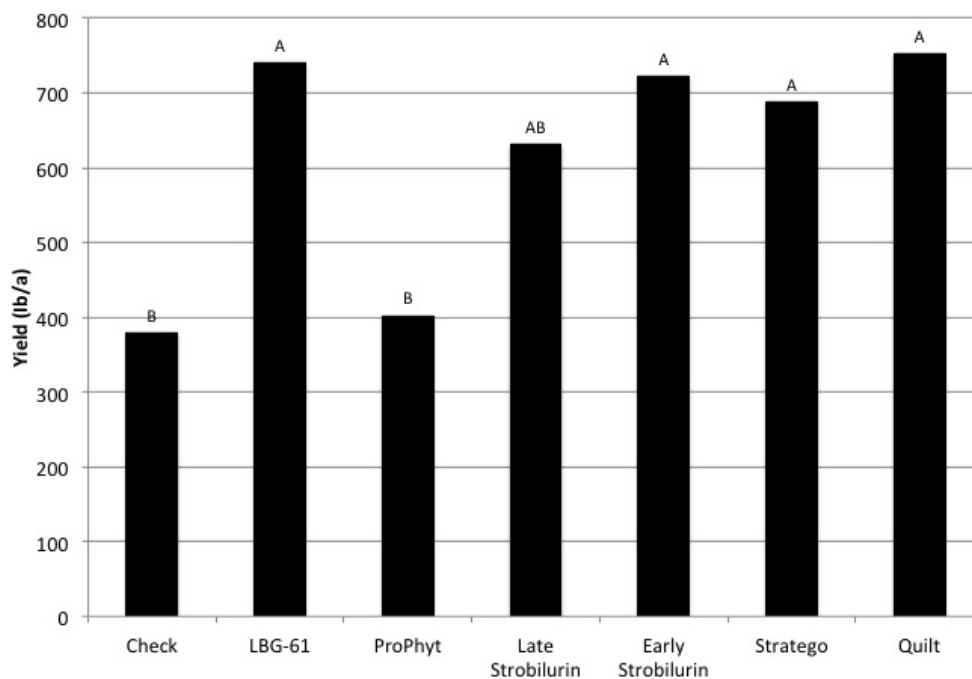


Figure 3. Crop yield of pecan trees treated with various fungicide programs. Plots were harvested on November 8, 2010. Pecans were dried to 4% moisture content and yield was determined on November 1, 2010. Bars of the same data group, with like letters, are not statistically different from each other.

Oklahoma State Pecan Show 2010

Becky Carroll

OSU Horticulture & Landscape Architecture

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. 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 Oklahoma State University, Department of Horticulture, Attn: Becky Carroll, 358 Ag Hall, OSU, Stillwater, OK 74078. Samples should arrive by January 21, 2011.

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) 60 nuts/lb or larger
28. Small-Native (seedling) more than 60 nuts/lb

- 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.

- Samples 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, second, and third place winners in each class at the State Pecan Show will receive ribbons.

- State Pecan Show Special Awards – Plaques 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 21, 2011 at the following address:

Oklahoma State University
Department of Horticulture & LA
Attn: Becky Carroll
358 Ag Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078-6027



Classified ads may be placed in the Newsletter for free by OPGA members. Send your ad to Mike Smith at mike.smith@okstate.edu and it will appear in the next newsletter and subsequent Newsletters until notification to remove the advertisement.

ELECTRO-SPRAY

Pecan, fruit and vegetable sprayer. 3-pt mount, PTO powered, ten nozzles, 110 gal. tank, electric shut-off valve. Can spray heights up to 40-50 feet. Always stored in shed, \$1,295.00. Call (918) 682-9448.



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38 acres, small progressive pecan operation. Property has 700 trees in four different varieties: Mohawk, Maramec, Pawnee and Oconee. There are currently 500 mature trees in production and 200 grafted. Two out buildings on the property, a 1,800 sq. ft. shop, with restroom/office and 4,800 sq. ft. machine/sorting shed, below ground irrigation system as well as some above ground lines. Two large fishing ponds. Very nice 2,500 sq. ft. home built in 1997, well groomed surroundings. Located between Hwy. 69 and the Muskogee Turnpike, 10 mins. from Muskogee, 45 mins. from Tulsa. Secluded area near Arkansas river. Will provide photos upon request. (918) 683-4017.

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

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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

Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association

c/o Horticulture & Landscape Architecture

Oklahoma State University

358 Agricultural Hall

Stillwater, OK 74078-6027

Return Service Requested
