



# OKLAHOMA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Volume LIII, No. 4

Michael Smith, Editor

October, November, December 2012

## In This Issue

*Early Harvest to Reduce Wildlife Depredation of Pecans - pg. 1-2*

*Pecan Cultivars - pg. 2-4*

*Do You Need Extension? - pg. 4*

*Pecan Management Class - pg. 4-5*

*Classifieds - pg. 5-6*

*Membership Renewal Insert*



***Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association is published 4 times per year and is a benefit or 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.***

## Early Harvest to Reduce Wildlife Depredation of Pecans

Charles Rohla, Noble Foundation

Pecan harvest is fast approaching. In some areas, we are seeing significant shuck-split and people are really starting to think about harvesting. One thing you should consider to ensure an optimal harvest is to begin as early as possible. Pecans can be harvested as soon as the shucks are opened, however many people wait until a hard freeze because the tree will lose their leaves and the pecans fall out of the tree easier. I have heard several pecan producers say when asked about harvesting that they will start after Thanksgiving. At this point, pecans may have been ready to harvest for over a month. If the nuts are allowed to lie on the ground for a long time, they tend to deteriorate, especially if they're high in moisture. When pecans are first ready to harvest moisture content may be as high as 20%. Early harvested pecans have to be dried to 4-5% before placing in storage. Early harvest may require going through the orchard twice, harvesting the early pecans then again to harvest the later pecans.

Early pecans normally will bring higher prices. However, the biggest incentive for early harvest is that the longer pecans are left unharvested, the higher the amount of damage and losses accumulated by insects and wildlife.

A study conducted by The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation at a native grove during the 1989 and 1990 pecan season showed wildlife damage on native groves ranged from 73-755 lbs. per acre. The greatest damage to pecan production from wildlife is not tree injury or nut damage (consumption or spoilage of pecans within the grove); it is caching (removal or storage outside the grove, of pecans rendering them unavailable for harvest). Caching accounted for 59% of the total wildlife damage estimated over the 2 year study. Squirrels damaged more pecans than were harvested in 4 of the 5 areas both years and caused more damage than all other wildlife combined. Peak squirrel damage was early September, which accounted for 43% of the yearly damage. Bird damage did not begin until late September (shuck-split) and grew steadily until harvest or until nut availability declined.

Average damage on six different grove sites was higher than what was actually harvested from the groves. Therefore, timely harvest

is critical. You have spent all year producing this good crop of pecans and now that it is time to harvest them you have to fight all the predators. Squirrels can damage 1 lb of pecans per day. Birds are as equally damaging normally starting their damage at shuck split until harvest. For example, crows can be very devastating on your pecan crop as they normally travel in flocks and can consume and damage .5-1 lb of pecans per day per crow. Blue jays will consume about half as much as the crows. Other predators that can also affect your pecan crop are raccoons, possums, mice, hogs, cattle, and do not forget the numerous insects that can cause damage to the pecans after they have fallen from the trees (ants, stinkbugs, etc.).

There are many methods available for controlling wildlife in the grove and orchards. Before selecting a control mechanism it is critical that you check with your State Wildlife Department or local game warden concerning local and state laws/regulations that may affect some control methods. Some areas may have rules prohibiting the control of certain wildlife. For example, blue jays are federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and require a permit for control. Nonetheless, controlling wildlife is clearly an important management practice in the pecan groves and orchards. Controlling mechanisms along with timely harvest will minimize potential damage and losses associated with wildlife.

**Pecan Cultivars**

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

You may wonder why I call these cultivars rather than varieties. A cultivar is a grouping of plants that is maintained by propagation with the intervention of man. In other words, the unique characteristics of this group require man's intervention to maintain the cultivar. Almost all agricultural food crops are cultivars rather than varieties. Variety is a taxonomic rank. It designates a group of plants within a species with identifiable unique characteristics differing from the species as a whole. This group occurred in nature and does not require man's intervention to maintain the unique trait(s). The

development of a distinctive naturally reproduced trait normally requires the group to occur in isolation from the other species members. Examples of varieties are the Caddo sugar maple, a more drought tolerate variety than other members of the same species; or Carpathian walnut, a cold hardy member of English walnuts. In both of these examples the variety was isolated from the rest of the population. In pecan we select unique trees from native pecans or controlled crosses. The desirable unique characteristics we wish to preserve require grafting to preserve the desirable traits. Thus pecans are cultivars rather than varieties.

Pecans require cross-pollination, i.e. pollination from a different cultivar or native tree. Pecan cultivars and individual native trees achieve cross-pollination by producing pollen that matures at a time different from its own pistillate flowers. In many cases there is some overlap between pollen shedding and pistil receptivity on the same cultivar or tree resulting in self-pollination. This results in greater fruit drop, smaller nuts and a lower kernel percentage.

Every native tree is a unique genotype; therefore, adequate cross-pollination is never a problem in native groves. However, at least two and preferably four compatible cultivars should be included in new orchards. The effective distance to reliably deliver pollen from one cultivar to another is 150 feet. Thus blocks of a single cultivar should not be over about 300 feet wide, with two rows of pollinators on both sides (two rows are needed to ensure one row remains after tree thinning). An alternative is a pollinator cultivar at every 7th tree in every 7th row for adequate pollination.

Terms used to describe pollen shed and pistil receptivity are protandrous or type 1 which means pollen is shed before their pistillate flower receptivity, i.e. early pollen shedding. Protogynous or type 2 cultivars shed pollen after their pistillate flowers are receptive, i.e. late pollen shedding.

Maramec – This protogynous cultivar was released by Herman Hinrichs at O.S.U. in 1969. It is probably a 'Mahan' seedling. Nuts are large (45 nuts/lb) with 59% kernel and good kernel quality.

It has been extremely popular and there are many trees combined with excellent flavor results in many repeat customers. Fruit ripening is early usually one to five days after 'Pawnee'. Shuck split is more uniform than 'Pawnee' and about half the time can be harvested before 'Pawnee'. Foliage and fruit are resistant to scab, and trees are cold hardy. Nuts are roundish, but crack and shell well. The nut shape reduces bird depredation problems and the tendency to crack during harvesting and handling.

Mohawk – This was an extremely popular cultivar because of the large nut size and heavy production. There are numerous trees planted throughout Oklahoma. The cultivar is no longer recommended because of significant problems with kernel quality when trees are overloaded. With judicious fruit thinning this cultivar remains profitable where grown.

Pawnee – is currently one of the most popular cultivars throughout the pecan belt and in Oklahoma. It is a 'Mohawk' x 'Starking Hardy Giant' cross with protandrous pollen shed. It is large, 44 nuts/lb with 58% kernel, and matures early. In 2012 at Cleveland, Oklahoma the first shuck split observed on 'Pawnee' was September 15. Although kernels tend to have "freckles" or dark brown lines on the kernel making them less attractive, they are sought after for the retail market and well received by consumers. Pawnee trees have an upright growth habit and are reasonably strong, although they received more damage in recent ice storms than some other cultivars. Foliage and fruit are moderately susceptible to pecan scab, but less susceptible to yellow aphids than many cultivars. 'Pawnee' has responded well to mechanical fruit thinning and controlling shading by hedging. 'Pawnee' is well-suited for high-management orchards, but will perform poorly if not properly managed. It is very susceptible to bird depredation.

Kanza – a protogynous 'Major' x 'Shoshoni' cross is currently the most grafted cultivar in Oklahoma according to Dick Hoffman's graftwood sales. 'Kanza' has many good characteristics, only a few flaws, and is one of my favorite cultivars. Tree growth habit is spreading with strong branch angles and limbs. In a recent ice storm 'Kanza' sustained less damage than most other cultivars. The greatest criticism is its small nut size, 75 nuts/lb with 52% kernel. It is too small to be sold in-shell to the public, but when "cracked and blown" or shelled it is well received by consumers. In 2012, all fruit on 'Oconee' dropped when other cultivars retained their fruit. Mild water stress results in

Lakota – is an exciting new protogynous 'Mahan' x 'Major' cross that should perform well throughout Oklahoma. It is relatively large with 60 nuts/lb and 57% kernel. Kernels are bright yellow. Nuts mature about two weeks after 'Pawnee'. 'Lakota' withstood a recent ice storm much better than 'Pawnee'. Trees are cold hardy and foliage and fruit are scab resistant. Trees alternate bear if excessive fruit loads are not properly thinned. Experience with this cultivar is far less than those listed above so significant problems may arise; to date this cultivar appears to be a good choice.

Nacono – is another relatively new protogynous cultivar that has been performing well in Oklahoma. It is a 'Cheyenne' x 'Sioux' cross producing 44 nuts/lb, 56% kernel and good quality golden color kernels. Kernels have shallow dorsal and ventral grooves that result in good shelling characteristics. Fruit ripen about 3 to 4 weeks after 'Pawnee'. 'Nacono' tends to have very uniform shuck opening with nuts are easily dislodged from the tree when ripe. Trees are vigorous and spreading. Foliage and fruit are scab resistant. This cultivar is best suited for southern Oklahoma and may perform well in central Oklahoma.

Caddo – is noted for consistent production and high quality nuts. It is a 'Brooks' x 'Alley' cross with protandrous pollen shed. Nuts are about 60 nuts/lb, 56% kernel and kernels are golden in color. 'Caddo' has good shelling characteristics. It has moderate scab resistance. Cold hardiness is a problem on young trees limiting its adaption to extreme southern Oklahoma.

Oconee – is a 'Schley' x 'Barton' cross that produces large nuts. Several trees have been planted in Oklahoma, but it is not recommended. 'Oconee' has moderate scab resistance, and is very drought susceptible. In 2012, all fruit on 'Oconee' dropped when other cultivars retained their fruit. Mild water stress results in

severe tapering of nuts at the basal end. Kernel quality generally looks good on young trees but some kernel filling problems have been observed on older trees.

Giles – was selected among native trees located near Chetopa, KS because of its high production. It is a heavy producer of medium quality nuts. Nut quality is marginal for the retail trade, but acceptable for the shelling industry. It responds well for mechanical fruit thinning and tends to produce annual crops when the crop load is managed. Kernels are dark golden color with 74 nuts/lb and 53% kernel. Pollen shed is protandrous. Trees are slow growing with droopy branches. Trees are very cold hardy. ‘Giles’ is moderately susceptible to scab. This cultivar is a good pollinator, but is not recommended as the primary cultivar.

**Do You Need Extension?**

Michael Smith, Department of Horticulture and L.A.

O.S.U. no longer has anyone in extension with specialization in horticulture, entomology or plant pathology. There is also no research support for entomology and plant pathology. Both Phil Mulder and Michael Smith have implored producers to take an active role in emphasizing the importance extension assistance, if it is to continue at O.S.U. Otherwise, it is unlikely that O.S.U. will continue to support a pecan research and extension program. Without your input, Michael Smith’s retirement may signal the end of university support.

A group needs to schedule a meeting with administration in the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources to highlight the industries accomplishments and needs. The Interim Dean is Mike Woods at 405-744-2474, the Extension Director is Jim Trapp at 405-744-5398, and the Interim Dean for the Agricultural Experiment Station is Jonathan Edelson at 405-744-9707. You hold the future of O.S.U.’s participation in pecan research and extension programs in your hands

Leaders of Oklahoma’s pecan industry should strive to develop and maintain a strong and active relationship with O.S.U.’s agricultural administration. Perhaps elected leaders should schedule an annual meeting to discuss the problems and opportunities for

the pecan industry. You have an agricultural industry that is growing and an important part of Oklahoma’s economy, but no one is touting its significance to the decision makers.

Industry support should not be limited to interaction with O.S.U.’s administration. Benefits can also be derived by developing and maintaining a good relationship with the State Department of Agriculture and your state legislators. You also have one of the most powerful men affecting agriculture policy in the U.S.A.; Frank Lucas, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. Does he recognize Oklahoma’s significance in pecan production?

Many Oklahoma pecan producers have commented that Georgia producers receive many benefits from state and federal governments not afforded to Oklahoma producers. The reason is Georgia producers are very politically active, and frequently benefit from this work. It takes action on your part to gain political support; otherwise, your industry is marginalized.

**Pecan Management Class**

Becky Carroll, Department of Horticulture and L.A.

The 2012 Pecan Management Course will be coming to an end this month. This makes the 15th year that the class has been held reaching over 430 students. The 2012 class had 28 excellent students! They were full of great questions and made the class fun to teach. We had members from Texas & Kansas and a great mix of growers or potential growers from across Oklahoma. Many were experienced growers and others were considering a planting in their future.

Our speaker list grew some this year – we had new experts from the Noble Foundation come and teach this year. Jamie Locke discussed weed control and Will Moseley talked about wildlife depredation. Fertilization and varieties were taught by OSU’s own expert, Mike Smith. Our regular presenters did a great job as always. We appreciate all the expertise that these speakers provide. Special thanks to Charles Rohla for his help with the class this year.

The class took a couple of field trips this year. In July, we met at Couch’s Orchard in Luther. Diane and Gordon gave us a tour and information on how

they manage their family orchard. It was a great afternoon. We even got a few raindrops on the group. In August, we took a trip to Dick Hoffman's orchard to see crop load thinning in action and toured the Hoffman's cleaning and processing area. Special thanks to Diane, Gordon, & Dick for all their expertise and advice that was shared with the group. The Pecan Management Class and Oklahoma pecans were featured in OSU's Cowboy Journal in the Summer/Fall 2012 issue. The link to the journal and article can be found at <http://cowboyjournal.okstate.edu/>. The Cowboy Journal is an award winning magazine written by Agricultural Communications seniors during their final semester at OSU. Be sure to take a look at the article.

During our final class we will take a watch harvesting at the Cimarron Valley Research Station, plant a rootstock tree that we grew from seed, demonstrate graftwood collection, and Bill Ihle will teach about quality evaluation and how to get the best prices for our pecans. We also will make pecan variety boards and the class will get to take some of their pecan seedlings home to plant. Those class members with good attendance will receive a certificate of completion.

The 2013 class will be starting in March. The brochures will be available in November. If you would like to enroll in the class or you know someone that would benefit from brushing up their management skills, please have them contact Stephanie Larimer to get on the mailing list for the upcoming class brochure. Her email is [stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu](mailto:stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu) and her phone number is 405-744-5404. If you have other questions concerning the class, please contact [becky.carroll@okstate.edu](mailto:becky.carroll@okstate.edu).

*Classified ads may be placed in the newsletter for free by OPGA members. Send your ad to Mike Smith at [mike.smith@okstate.edu](mailto:mike.smith@okstate.edu) and it will appear in the next newsletter and subsequent newsletters until notification to remove the advertisement.*

**PARTS, REPAIRS and OVERHAULS**

On all Nut Hustler and Savage pecan equipment. Pecan and Ag, Bristow, OK. 918-367-5529.

**PECAN ORCHARD FOR SALE**

Pecan Orchard for sale. 110 acres. Includes shop, store & office. 2000 sq. ft. living quarters has 2 bedrooms & 2 baths, plus bunk room. 2100+ improved premium papershell pecan tress. 8.5 miles south of Idabel, OK and 11 miles north of Texas state line on Hwy 259. Joy's Pecan Orchard REDUCED to \$695,000. Shelling equipment included. 580-286-3550 or 580-257-0655.

**PECAN TREE SALE**

Wall Family Farm  
Container Grown 7 gal. Tree Can  
Grafted varieties 4-7 ft. \$18.00  
Native Pecan 7ft. \$10.00  
Winston 972-563-3991  
Marilyn 972-236-3991  
[wallsfarm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wallsfarm@sbcglobal.net)  
[wallsfamilyfarm.com](http://wallsfamilyfarm.com)

**Bird Gard** uses a birds' primal fears and natural survival instincts to repel them. Protect from 1.5 acres up to 30 acres. ABSOULUE SATISFACTION GUARANTEEE. If you are not completely satisfied with the operation, quality or results of using ANY Bird Gard product, simply return the product to the place of purchase within 1 year for a prompt refund of your purchase price.

Call Jim or Deann Smith 405-273-1235

62 acres m/l with 1000+ improved variety pecan trees on Kerr Lake in Haskell County. Lots of Blueberry and Blackberry bushes to enjoy or use as you-pick-it income. Very nice 2 bed 1and1/2 bath home shop and out buildings. Excellent for hunting and fishing with an outstanding view of the Arkansas Navigation System. \$395,000. 918-967-8066 or 918-649-4559.

**TAKING ORDERS FOR CIRCLE PECAN WEEVIL TRAPS.**

\$17.50 each. Contact Suzen Ihle at 918-367-6168.

**FOR SALE: Nut Hustler harvester. \$5500. Air blast sprayer on two wheel trailer. \$1100. Both field ready. Pictures.**

**Fred Watson---okpecan@cableone.net.**

---

**FOR SALE BY OWNER**

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 1800 sq.ft. shop with restroom and office and 4800 sq.ft. machine/sorting shed, below ground irrigation system as well as some above ground lines. Two large fishing ponds. Very nice 2500 sq.ft. home built in 1997, well groomed surroundings. Located between Hwy 69 and the Muskogee Turnpike, 10 minutes from Muskogee, 45 minutes from Tulsa. Secluded area near Arkansas River. Will provide photos upon request. 918-683-4017.

**Pawnee and Kanza wholesale. Call Mike Smith at 405-880-5605.**

**FOR SALE - FMC 4300 Diesel shaker \$13,000. Call Tim Montz**

**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 and 8% sales tax or AG exemption. Wes Rice, 580-765-7049, 333 Braden School Rd., Ponca City, OK 74604.

**BAMBOO FRAILING POLES**

12'-14'        \$6.50 each  
16'-18'        \$8.25 each  
20'-22'        \$10.00 each

Pecan and Ag, Bristow, OK 918-367-5529

**ALMOND STREET COLD STORAGE, ABILENE, TX**

Will finance your storage and transportation cost until you sell your pecans. For more information, please call Larry Jones at 325-673-4801.

Return Service Requested

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

---

**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  
Amanda Early, Treasurer  
2115 N Dobi  
Stillwater, OK 74075  
amanda.early@okstate.edu 405-744-8800

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Renew

New Member

Grower Member	\$75.00
Industry Member	\$150.00
Extension/Research/Student	\$40.00

**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  
Amanda Early, Treasurer  
2115 N Dobi  
Stillwater, OK 74075  
amanda.early@okstate.edu 405-744-8800

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Renew

New Member

Grower Member	\$75.00
Industry Member	\$150.00
Extension/Research/Student	\$40.00