



Arkansas Fruit and Nut News Volume 6, Issue 7, 13 August 2016

Pecan Pests

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- **Pecan Weevils.** The pecan weevil is the most devastating pest to pecans if not controlled. Adults should be emerging soon. Now is the time to monitor for pecan weevil adults by tying Circle traps around pecan trunks or setting out pyramid traps.
- **Hickory shuckworms** will become present in pecan groves over the next few weeks. These caterpillars feed primarily on hickory and pecan. The larvae mostly feed inside of the shuck reducing the nut quality and yield. The second generation of the shuckworm actually feeds inside the nut causing nuts to drop.
- **Stink bugs** mainly damage pecans during and after water stage, which for many varieties is either beginning now or in the next few weeks. The stink bug damage is not noticeable on the outside of the shuck but when the pecan is cracked it leaves a dark bitter tasting pit on the kernel. If a noticeable amount of stink bugs are present in the pecan trees see the MP144 for recommendations for insecticide control.
- **Walnut caterpillars** egg have been found and the second generation is beginning hatch. These caterpillars feed as a group as they defoliate branches on pecan, black walnut, butternut, hickory, oak, willow, birch, honey locust and apple. You can see egg masses on underside of leaves and later you can see two color phases of caterpillars: smaller caterpillars are red with white lines along body and a black head whereas larger caterpillars are black with white lines along body, fuzzy white hair and a black head.
- **Fall webworm** caterpillars second generation is about to come out. A group of caterpillars cover a branch in a silk nest and defoliate the branch. They feed on pecan, apple, walnut, persimmon, birch and other trees.

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Figure 1. Male and female pecan weevil (a) and walnut caterpillar egg mass (b) and defoliation of pecan (c) (Photos: B. Cowell)

Much of the information obtained for this newsletter was gathered by the authors at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. All chemical information is given with the understanding that no endorsement of named products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned. Before purchasing or using any pesticide, always read and carefully follow the directions on the container label. Compiled by: Donn T. Johnson, University of Arkansas, Department of Entomology, E-mail: dtjohnso@uark.edu.

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