

PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



Entomology and Plant Pathology
Oklahoma State University
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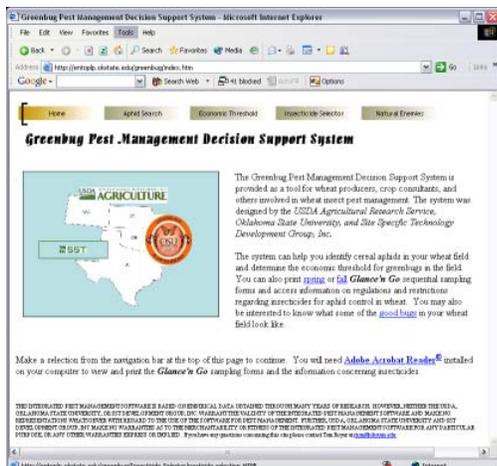
Greenbugs Are Being Reported in Wheat Tom A. Royer, Extension Entomologist

While there doesn't yet appear to be widespread reports of threatening greenbug numbers in wheat, growers need to "get their shadow" into their fields and look for greenbugs, especially in areas that have not received significant rainfall. I have received scattered reports from Extension Educators of low to moderate numbers of greenbugs which may be building in numbers.



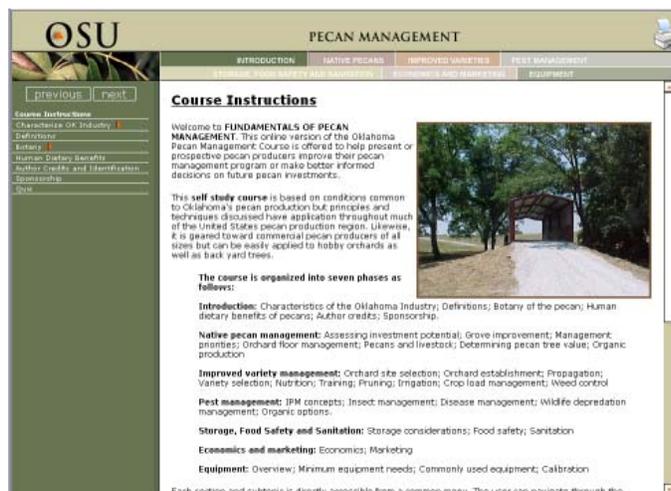
You can still use the old method for scouting and estimating greenbug treatment thresholds (100-300 greenbugs per foot of row in 3-6 inch wheat), but OSU greenbug treatment recommendations have significantly changed as a result of research conducted at OSU and the Agricultural Research Service over the past 4 years. The old scouting method requires the scout to dislodge greenbugs from plants on to the ground and count them. To get an accurate count of greenbugs in a field, at least 15 samples should be recorded in a field which can be very time consuming. Fortunately, OSU specialists have developed a new method for determining treatment thresholds and for scouting fields that is accurate, faster, and quite simple.

The treatment threshold can be estimated by accessing the Greenbug Expert System which is located on the Entomology and Plant Pathology website at <http://entopl.okstate.edu/>. Just click on "Agricultural Models", then Cereal Aphids Pest Management, and you will find yourself in the Greenbug Expert System. By following some simple instructions, you can use the Economic Threshold Calculator to determine your treatment threshold. Based on this model, the treatment thresholds for greenbugs in December should probably fall around 5-7 greenbugs per stem (tiller). Once you determine the threshold, print off a scouting form to use to sample your fields. Make sure you select the correct form (Fall Season) for scouting through December. After January, use the Spring Season form.



Pecan *E-Learning* Reaches the Internet

Phil Mulder, Extension Entomologist



In 1997, the first offering of the pecan management course at Oklahoma State University was presented to interested growers. The course has continued every year since that time, with the exception of 2002, with no appreciable reduction in class numbers. The yearlong course was supported by the participants (registration fee), the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association, the Southern Region SARE/ACE program and the Oklahoma Integrated Pest Management program at Oklahoma State University. The objectives of the pecan course have been

to 1) address the needs of our clientele at any level of expertise, 2) to provide a hands-on atmosphere in the classroom and field for participants to experience pecan management problems first hand, 3) to educate growers on pecan culture from “A to Z” through any means necessary and 4) to ultimately provide growers with a distance learning educational tool that can supplement or even replace the classroom or field oriented gatherings.

In 2001, the pecan IPM team initiated an effort to expand the audience base participating in the course by constructing a pecan *e-learning* offering on the Internet. This idea surfaced out of conversation with private industry representatives that construct such websites for a fee. In 2002, OSU entered into contract with Agri-Business Group (Indianapolis, IN) to create the first pecan *e-learning* short course. In 2003, the dream has become reality and testing of the *e-learning* prototype is currently underway. This innovative Extension offering has allowed for a distance education mechanism that has reduced demands on schedules and travel by instructors. In addition, the new offering represents a multi-level approach to teaching that permits the user to determine their entry level and educational pace. Each section of the program is accompanied by a self analysis post test.

In 2004, OSU will once again offer the hands-on pecan workshop. In addition we will also offer the first *e-learning* course in conjunction with or separate from the workshop. Support for the construction of the pecan *e-learning* course was also provided by the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association, The Oklahoma Integrated Pest Management Program at OSU and the Southern Region SARE/ACE program. The editors (B.D. McCraw and P.G. Mulder) wish to gratefully acknowledge each of these contributors for their support and patience in developing this valuable teaching tool. Ultimately, we envisioned the pecan *e-learning* program as a tool that would allow for seamless educational programming, allow for training in a business environment, increase the accessibility to clientele, eliminate distance education limitations, aid with schedule demands for everyone, require fewer extension personnel and complement or replace the formal classroom offering.

In 2004, the OSU Pecan Management *e-learning* site will not be part of the pecan workshop but can be purchased to complement what is learned in the course. It will be password protected and will be available for a fee to all users, irrespective of their participation in the OSU workshop.

System requirements include an Internet connection with Dialup, ISDN, DSL, Cable, or T1. For Mac users the minimum computer should be a G3 300 MHz and for PC users a Pentium II with 300 MHz. Browser requirements recommended include Internet Explorer 5.0 or Netscape Navigator 6.0. The latest versions are downloadable from the site. Microsoft PowerPoint is the only software component and if you do not have it, a PowerPoint viewer will load automatically. Screen size should be set at a minimum of 800 x 600 pixels, colors at least thousands, Javascript should be enabled and browser application memory should be have at least 25 MB. Even with the minimum requirements, certain features may take time to load, in particular, PowerPoint presentations.

The fee for accessing the OSU Pecan Management site is \$75.00 and information on registration can be found by simply getting on the Internet and typing <http://pecan.okstate.edu> . Once you have entered the site, scroll down to the bottom of that page and click on the request for registration information. You can enter the pertinent information in the spaces provided; however, access will not be available until your check has been received. For further information on how to participate in the inaugural year of this distance learning opportunity contact Stephanie Larimer at (405) 744-5404 or at the email address steph@okstate.edu . This site will be updated yearly and maintained by OSU specialists.

Dr. Richard Grantham
Director, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory

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