

PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



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Rains Bring Pecan Weevils in Oklahoma Phil Mulder, Extension Entomologist



Recent rains across the state have brought another flush of pecan weevil out of the soil and into our trees. Many commercial growers have treated once already on early maturing cultivars; however, they also realize that the job is not complete. Keep in mind, pecan weevils can continue to emerge and seek out oviposition sites through the month of October. We must be diligent in combating this pest each year. Once the majority of a crop has reached the dough stage of development the pecans are ready for weevil egg-laying activity.

When applications are made for pecan weevil and trapping is used in that area to monitor for these insects, it is important to remove the trap tops and allow dead and/or dying weevils to attempt to climb back into the canopy. They will continue to be exposed to a toxic level of chemical and will eventually die. You have to assume that the insecticide chosen will provide 7-10 days of control. Once seven days has passed since the last application, then trap tops can be replaced and monitoring should continue to help determine the next spray date.

Even in commercial operations where weevils are controlled each year it is not unusual to make 2-3 applications for this pest. This can be particularly true for those that retail their product to the general public. You can ill afford to have customers discover one weevil in a sample of nuts. For those wholesaling their product a little weevil damage can be sorted out by the cleaner, grower or buyer; however, the problem can continue to compound itself in the future. Many things will go into making the decision to treat or not treat for this important pest, but problems ignored in one year can affect future infestations.

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