

# 2020 Pecan Update

Lenny Wells  
UGA Horticulture



[extension.uga.edu](http://extension.uga.edu) | 1-800-ASK-UGA1





# Why So Many Green Shucks?

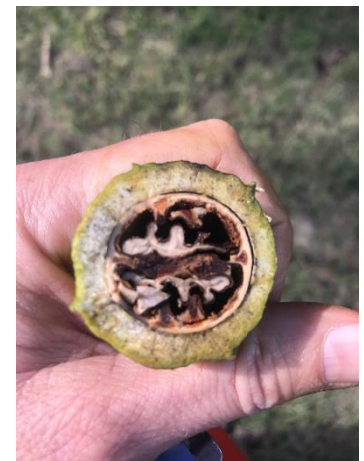
## Green Shucks

- 65% poorly developed kernels
- 20% vivipary/rot
- 15% good kernels

## Cause

- High temps increased water demand
- Shucks need adequate water during Sept/Oct to open properly
- Shucks didn't separate from shell properly and shucks retained moisture inside warm shuck
- Opt temp for pecan germination= 90-95 degrees

	High Temps	Rainfall
Sept 2019	95	0.46"
Avg Sept 2015-2018	87.25	2.8"



# Biggest Problem Facing SE Pecan Industry

## Shellers Don't Want Old SE orchard varieties/blend

- Western and Mexican crop consistently Wichita and Western Schley
- Need varieties with % kernel in mid 50's for consistent profitable prices
- You need
  - Export: size and quality
  - Domestic: Good quality, not necessarily size

## Pecan Prices 2018 /2019

	2018	2019
Stuart	\$1.44	\$1.55
Moneymaker	\$0.8-\$1.10	\$1.00-1.10

# Two Different Routes for Growing Pecans

## High Volume, High Input

- Hedge/Tight Spacing
  - 35 X 35
- Varieties
  - Pawnee
  - Creek
  - Caddo

## High Scab Resistance, Low Cost

- Conventional Spacings
  - 25-35X50, 30 X 60, 40 X 40
- Varieties
  - Excel
  - Lakota
  - McMillan
  - Elliot

# Problems & Solutions\*

## With Old South GA Trees

### Problems

- Inconsistent Production
- Low Quality
- The first to show any sign of stress

### Solutions

- Sunlight, Water, Pruning
- Hedging, Whisp-Pruning
- Inter-plant and change varieties over time

# Hedging Old Trees

## Improves Water Efficiency

- Increases Size
- Increases Quality

## Other Advantages

- Allows for planting new varieties between rows

## Disadvantages

- Expensive
- Hard on Equipment





**UGA**  
**extension**

[extension.uga.edu](http://extension.uga.edu)

1-800-ASK-UGA1



# Whisp, Remove, Replace

## How

- Remove 1-4 large limbs per year for several years
- Interplant better varieties in-between large trees
- Remove large trees in stages as young trees come into production

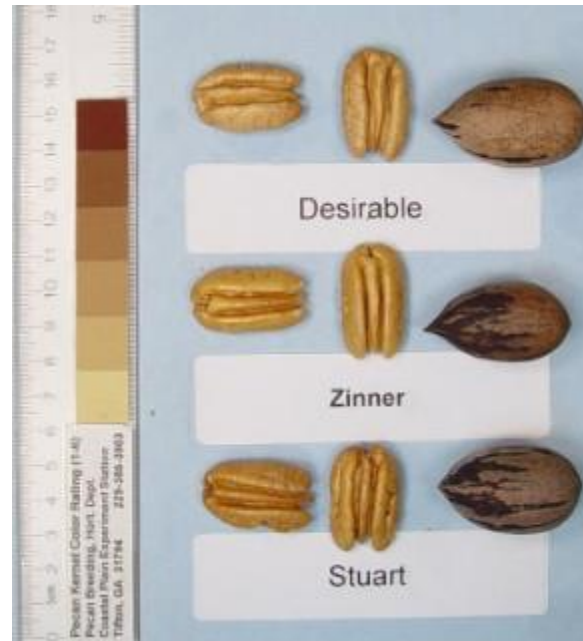


## Disadvantages

- Expensive
- Time Consuming

# Inter-Planting in old Stuart blend Orchards

- Avalon
- Zinner
- Ellis
- Sumner
- Creek
- Oconee
- Lakota
- McMillan
- Excel



# Pollinators

- Pawnee
  - Lakota, Sumner, Zinner, Desirable, Elliott, Ellis
- Creek
  - Cape Fear, Caddo, Desirable, Oconee, Pawnee
- Cape Fear
  - Caddo, Cherryle, Creek, Desirable, Elliott, Kanza, Kiowa, Lakota, Oconee, Pawnee, Sumner, Zinner, Avalon, Ellis
- Caddo
  - Cape Fear, Creek, Cherryle, Desirable, Elliott, Kanza, Kiowa, Lakota, Oconee, Pawnee, Zinner, Avalon, Ellis\*
- Oconee
  - Caddo, Cape Fear, Creek, Cherryle, Desirable, Elliott, Pawnee, Avalon
- Sumner
  - Cape Fear, Cherryle, Creek, Desirable, Oconee, Pawnee
- Zinner
  - Caddo, Cape Fear, Cherryle, Creek, Desirable, Oconee, Pawnee
- Ellis
  - Caddo, Cape Fear, Cherryle, Creek, Desirable, Oconee, Pawnee
- Lakota
  - Caddo, Cape Fear, Creek, Desirable, Oconee, Pawnee
- Avalon
  - Caddo, Cape Fear, Cherryle, Creek, Desirable, Oconee, Pawnee



# Fertilization Recommendations for Young Trees

- Focus on P,K, Zn---not N!

Rate of 10-10-10/per tree

Year	April	June
1	0	0.5-1 lb
2	1-2 lbs	1-2 lbs
3	2-3 lbs	2-3 lbs
4	3-4 lbs	3-4 lbs

- Apply Zinc Sulfate at 1-3lb per tree for the 1<sup>st</sup> 3-4 yrs
- 2-3 sprays foliar Zn if deficiency symptoms show
- Mouse Ear Trees:
  - Apply Ni at rate of 1.5 qts/100 gallons



# If You Fertigate

## Amount of N/acre

Year	April	May	June
1	0	0	5 lbs N
2-4	5 lbs	5 lbs	5 lbs

- Apply granular P,K, Zn over the tree row in March or April of years 1 and 2
  - 40 lbs P
  - 40 lbs K
  - 25 lbs Zn Sulfate

# Growing Pecans Behind Pine Trees Year 1

	Caliper Growth (mm)	Leaf Width	Leaf Length	Leaf Area
Cotton Field	4.36a	3.07a	10.6a	21.5a
Cleared Pines	2.04b	2.58b	7.7b	14.0b

