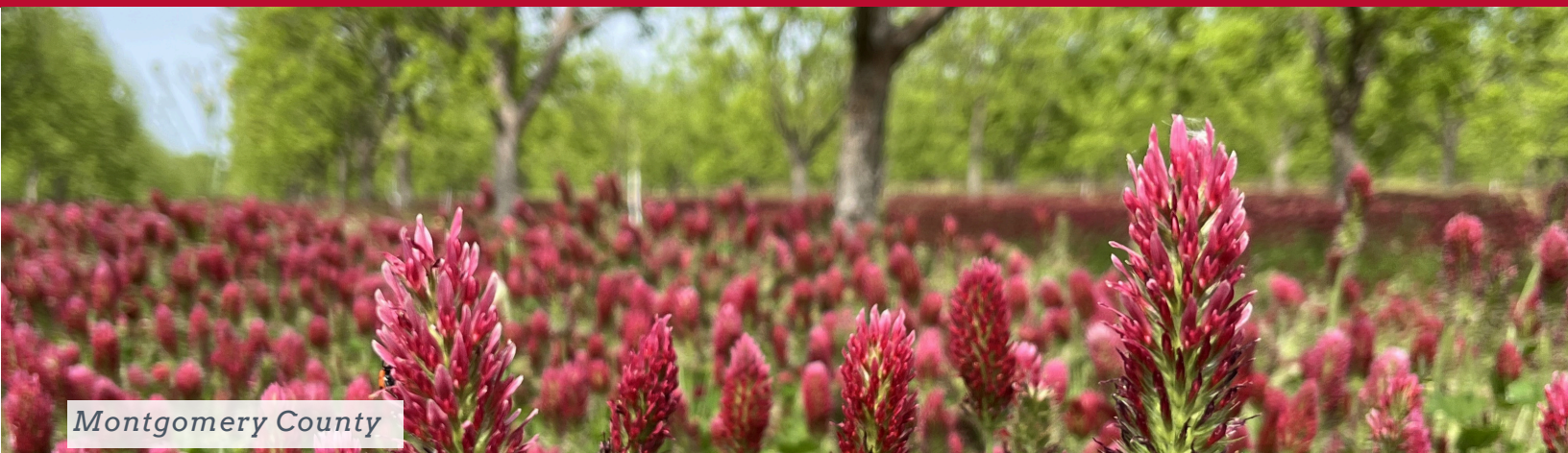


# SOUTHEAST GEORGIA PECAN PRESS

*The Official Newsletter of the UGA Cooperative Extension  
Pecan Agent Team*



Montgomery County

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## MAY A GOOD SEASON BEGIN

*By: Andrew Sawyer, Southeast Georgia Area Pecan Agent*

In May, pecan leaves finish expansion and pollination has occurred. My position covers many counties in East Georgia. I have not had time to catch up with everyone yet. But reports of 'Stuart' in my area are 60 - 80% terminal. I hope this remains. The first pecan drop that occurs is in May but goes largely unnoticed.

All of you have completed your first application of fungicide, and taken advantage of dry weather to increase the interval of fungicide through May. I strongly advise to watch the weather and apply the next fungicide before rainfall comes, which generally has been the last week of May.

The tender leaves are still good to take up zinc, an element which is vital to production. Managing zinc is complex since it is taken up both by the roots and by the leaves. If either is ignored, zinc will become deficient. Applying foliar zinc is important in early Spring when the soils are cool. Pecan have a harder time taking up zinc from the soil in these conditions.



*Figure 1. Zn deficiency on 'Tanner' in Cook County. Photo by Tucker Price.*

# PAY ATTENTION TO PECAN NUT CASEBEARER

By Dr. Apurba Barman, UGA Extension Entomologist

Adult pecan nut casebearer (PNC) caterpillars emerge from their overwintering stage in the spring and are active in pecan orchards from mid-April onward. The first generation of the moths is more serious as the females lay eggs on small nutlets, and the emerging caterpillars feed on nutlets in a cluster. It takes about 5 days for eggs to hatch.

There is a short window between the emergence of a caterpillar to nut entry. An insecticide chemistry with longer residual must be applied when the majority of the eggs are present on the nutlets.

Pheromone traps are used to monitor PNC flight activity to provide the "biofix" date. "Biofix" is considered a developmental event in the insect's life cycle. Traps must be checked daily to determine biofix. In 2024, John Bennet (Wilcox), Derrick Bowen (Tatnall), Scout Carter (Ware), Cliff Collins (Burke), Michasia Dowdy (Brooks), Morgan Grizzle (Houston), Chelsea Lopez (Sumpter), Ben Reeves (Berrien), Lauren Stanley (Montgomery) and Tanner Wilson (Colquitt) to monitor the 'biofix' date. Joe LaForrest helped compile this information through EDDS Maps website.

Based on the data from county agents, data observation at Ponder farm, and the "smart" traps, the "biofix" was reached within the last 2-3 days. **Therefore, it is predicted that we see 25-50% eggs between May 12th - May 15th. It is recommended to sample nut clusters for eggs and damaged nutlets during this period.**

For prevention, **an insecticide application should be made between 10-14 days following the "biofix" date.** I am also sharing a figure (2) provided by FMC showing last year's and this year's trap capture trend. It is clear that during the last three days in the month of April, PNC capture has increased tremendously and surpassed last year's captures during this time.

What does all this mean for risk of PNC damage to our 2024 pecan crop? It is hard to predict definitively. **Very Important: Higher moth captures do not always reflect higher nut injury.** Besides, one needs to consider the crop load, variety, and input level. When crop load is high, some nuts drop due to PNC damage, which can be helpful to thin out. Similarly, 'Desirable' naturally sheds nuts in the middle of the season. Thus, the decision to control depends on these factors and does not apply to all operations.

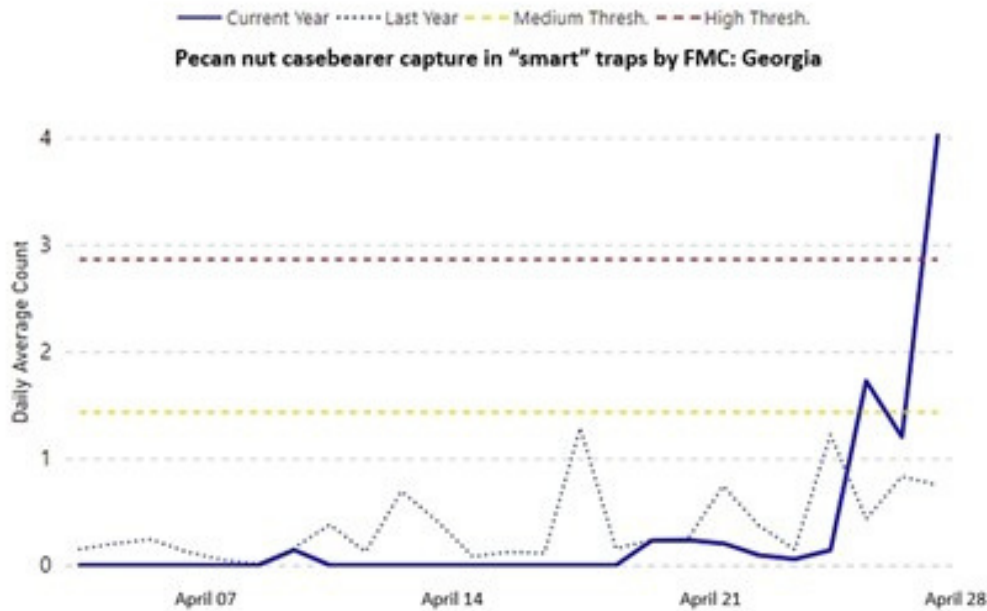


Figure 2. FMC PNC trap captures for 2023 and 2024.

# YOUNG PECAN FERTILIZATION

By Dr. Lenny Wells, UGA Extension Horticulturalist

As mentioned at this year’s county meetings, I have changed our recommendation for young or non-bearing pecan tree fertilizer for a number of reasons. Original research suggested pecans do not need fertilizer in the first year since trees from the nursery have sufficient nitrogen. With recent storm damage and the lack of a natural root ball in pecan, trees growing faster are more vulnerable to wind damage. Young pecan tree fertilization should focus on phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and zinc (Zn) for the first four years.

## Rate of 10-10-10 per tree

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

A complete fertilizer is a good way to build P and K in the soil without giving excess nitrogen. Use a soil test to determine pH and lime recommendations, then follow this fertilizer program.

- **Apply zinc sulfate at 1 - 3 lbs per tree for the first 3 - 4 years.**

## Fertigation rate of N per acre

| Year | April   | May     | June    |
|------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1    | 0 lb    | 0 lb    | 0 lb    |
| 2    | 2.5 lbs | 0 lb    | 2.5 lbs |
| 3    | 2.5 lbs | 0 lb    | 2.5 lbs |
| 4    | 5 lbs   | 2.5 lbs | 5 lbs   |

Liquid nitrogen through an injection system is a great way for pecans to uptake nitrogen. Calculate treated acreage by the diameter of your microsprinklers. (Visit the UGA Pecan Blog for an example.) Apply granular P, K, and Zn over the tree row in March or April of years 1 and 2.

- **40 lbs P**
- **40 lbs K**
- **25 lbs of Zn sulfate**

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All materials written and reviewed by  
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## Upcoming Events

May 23, 2024 — **East Georgia Pecan Field Day**, Three Bees Farm, Burke County

May 30 - June 1, 2024 — **Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association Conference** - Ardmore, OK

June 20 - 21, 2024 - **Tri-State Pecanference**



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