

Pecan Scab!

I have received several calls last week like what are these black spots on my green pecans? Why is my pecan turning brown or black? Why is my pecans falling off? All good questions when you have pecan trees. Our pecan growers in the county know all about different diseases, and spray for it, and many others each and every year. But to homeowners, especially newcomers to the Ag community they don't know about all the management that goes into raising some good pecans. Pecan scab is a common fungal disease of pecans. Symptoms include black lesions and tissue death on twigs, leaves, and nuts from early spring until late summer. Wind and rain spread spores of the disease organism. Because rain and high humidity increase scab infection, pecan scab is more severe in Central and East Texas. Small, circular, olive-green to black spots form on the lower surface of the leaf and nuts. These spots may have a velvety or cracked appearance. Sometimes these spots coalesce forming large, irregularly shaped darkened areas. On nuts, these spots appear to be sunken in. Infected twigs will exhibit elongated spots parallel to the twig axis. Infected foliage may prematurely drop. When infection is severe, the entire nut surface is black, development is arrested and the nut drops prematurely or fails to grow in the area of infection.

More on Pecan Scab here <https://pecankernel.tamu.edu/diseases/#scab>

Pecan scab monitoring – Regional disease pressure

	Month							
Location	S	A	J	J	M	A	M	Scab Severity
Texarkana	0	0	0.5	2.5	5.2	4.6	2.4	Severe
Palestine	0	0	1	3.8	6.8	6.8	3.2	Severe
Dallas	0	0.3	0.7	3.2	5.4	5.2	2	Moderately severe
Victoria	0	0.2	0.9	2.9	4.7	3.5	1.6	Severe
Austin	0.1	0.1	0.8	3.5	7.3	5.8	2.1	Moderately severe
Seguin	0.3	1.3	3.2	8.7	15	10	4	Moderate
Weatherford	0	0.1	1.2	5	7	9	3.5	Moderately light

Brownwood 2 1.3 2.2 6 9.7 9.7 4.3 Light

Uvalde 0.5 2.3 3.3 8.3 14.5 9.7 3.8 Light

Table 1. Comparison of different areas of Texas using days above 90 deg. F: Days receiving measurable rainfall ratio on pecan scab severity

Publication called Pecan Fungicides and Herbicides found here:

<https://tpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Pecan-Fungicides-and-Pesticides-Monte-Nesbitt.pdf>

<https://pecankernel.tamu.edu/diseases/#scab>

Control:

1. Planting pecan varieties with resistance to pecan scab can reduce disease incidence in Central and East Texas. Other actions to minimize pecan scab are proper pruning and wide spacing between the trees, which can improve air circulation and speed leaf drying.
2. Dormant season spray and Sanitation will help with all pests and diseases.
3. Fungicides applied as a foliar spray on young trees can prevent pecan scab. To maintain control, they must be applied early and then reapplied. The fungicides labeled for control of pecan scab on bearing trees are not available in small quantities marketed for backyard trees.

Good Fungicides: There are many to choose from and they can get expensive!

Abound®

Pristine® fungicide

Pecan Management Calendar

– <file:///M:/Forms/AG/Marty's%20Stuff/Documents%202015-19/Pecan%20Info/Pecans%20Management%20Calendar.html#calendar>