



Georgia Pecan Nut News *Spring 2009*

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New Extension Bulletin

Lenny Wells

A new UGA Extension bulletin is now available, which discusses best management practices for poultry litter use in pecans. It can be found at www.ugapecan.org or a more direct link is: <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/C939/C939.htm>

4-Flap or Banana Grafting Pecans

Lenny Wells

The four flap or banana graft is one of the easiest grafts to use when grafting pecans. It is ideal for small caliper trees up to 1 inch in diameter. This graft is most successful when the scion and rootstock are of similar size. For the best fit, the scion should be slightly larger than the stock.

The high degree of success with the four flap graft can be attributed to the large amount of contact between the cambium of the rootstock and scion. Whereas most grafting techniques only allow for the cambiums to connect at two locations, the four flap allows eight opportunities for cambium contact with each graft. Therefore, a precise cut and fit is less critical with the four flap graft.

Scion wood for the desired cultivar should be collected while dormant in late February or early March. Diameter of the scion wood should be from a minimum of 3/8 inch to 1 inch at maximum. Use healthy, 1 year old wood with well developed buds for the scion.

The four flap graft can also be used on older trees. When this is done, use limbs less than one inch in diameter. Large limbs should be de-horned, allowing new growth to develop for one year.

The four flap graft should be made in early spring after the bark begins to slip (April and May). Remove all lateral growth on the stock to about 6 inches. This keeps the tree vigorous, protects it from sunscald, and keeps the scion from becoming too tall or whip-like and breaking out.

Cut the stock straight across with sharp pruning shears at a comfortable working

height with a trunk or limb diameter of ½ to 1 inch. Place a small rubber band around the stock and place it 3 to 4 inches below the cut.

This should fit snugly around the stock.

Place the knife blade straight across the cut surface of the stock and slice down through the center about ¾ inch (Figure 1). After this cut is made, make a second cut perpendicular to the first.



Figure 1.

Choose a smooth, straight piece of scion wood approximately 6 inches long and approximately the same diameter as the stock. Each scion stick should have 2 to 3 plump, healthy buds. With a sharp knife, make a flat cut through the bark on three to four sides of the scion, beginning 1 to 2 inches from the bottom end (Figure 2).

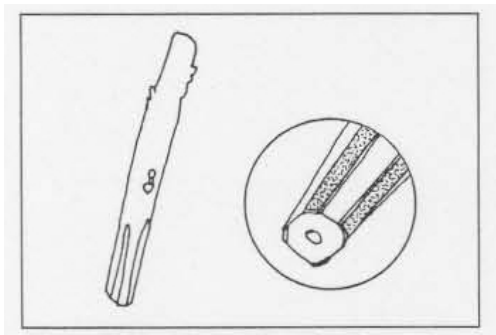


Figure 2.

Gradually increase pressure on the knife so

that the cuts taper to join in a square at the base (Figure 2). These cuts should expose a long line of cambium around the edges of the bark.

Pull down four flaps of bark on the stock to expose 2 -2 ½ inches of bare wood (Figure 3).



Figure 3.

Carefully cut and remove the plug of exposed stock so as not to damage the four flaps. Insert the scion upright on the stock and pull up on the four flaps to cover the cut surface of the scion. Push the rubber band up near the ends of the flaps hold them in place (Figure 4).



Figure 4.

Wrap the cut areas with a ¾ inch rubber band or grafting tape (Figure 5).

Wrap the cut areas and the scion with Parafilm strips to seal the cuts and scion (Figure 6). Buds will grow through the Parafilm as they develop. Parafilm allows

for the free exchange of air and moisture so that moisture does not build up inside the protective covering. Successful grafts will begin growing in 3 to 4 weeks.



Figure 5.

Parafilm can be obtained through www.benmeadows.com and other laboratory or horticultural supply stores.



Figure 6.

Temik
Lenny Wells

You may recall that Bayer voluntarily withdrew pecans from the Temik label last year. However, following the large amount of grower support, Bayer has asked EPA to

keep pecans on the label for Temik. Every indication they have had to this point, is that pecans will be placed back on the permanent Temik label. Regardless of EPA's final decision, pecans will be on all Temik labels made this year. Therefore, Temik will be available for pecans in 2009. The labeled rate for Temik is 33-50 lbs per acre. Do not apply Temik after July 15.

Casebearer
Will Hudson

The first insect pest most growers see every season is pecan nut casebearer (unless you have phylloxera, which need to be treated at budbreak). The first generation moths emerge just as the trees are pollinating, and the females lay eggs on the small nutlets that will be food for the caterpillars. A single caterpillar can eat its way through several nuts in a cluster as it develops. Once inside the nut, insecticides cannot reach the larva so timing of sprays is critical to get the pests before the damage begins. Pecan trees set many more nuts than they can carry to harvest and in "on" years (like we expect this year) the damage from low to moderate populations of casebearers is slight. Many growers elect to ignore them and not treat, especially if the weather is dry and treating would require a trip over the orchard just for the casebearer spray.

For those who choose to treat, the best way to get the timing right is through trapping the moths with pheromone traps. These traps are available from several vendors including Great Lakes IPM and Forestry Suppliers, and some local distributors also carry the traps and lures. Once some moths show up in the traps, you know about a week later the eggs will be laid and a few days after that caterpillars will be hatching, so you can peg

the time to spray in your orchard. Lacking traps, some growers talk to their neighbors or call the pecan hotline and treat whenever others are treating. Others choose to add a caterpillar treatment to the fungicide spray closest to May 15th and hope for the best. Whatever your strategy, there are several products that will give excellent control if timed well. In addition to old stand-bys like Lorsban, Dimilin, Confirm and Intrepid, a new product, Belt, has a label this season and should be available from your distributor.

Scab Considerations

Jason Brock

Most areas across the state have experienced an unusually high amount of rainfall in early April. Keep in mind that the frequency of rainfall is more of a factor in scab development than total rainfall. The recent rains have increased the concern for leaf scab and fungicide applications have been a topic of conversation. While rain events are the main driving force, there are other environmental factors to consider.

Scab infection is reported to occur between 50 – 95 °F, with the optimum temperatures falling between 59 – 77 °F. In regard to scab development, the interaction between moisture and temperature is not fully understood. Although we can't quantify the effect, the unseasonably cool weather might actually provide some short term assistance in the effort to suppress scab.

Some growers have already started their spray program, while others have waited until the trees are a little further along. Those that have waited should be fine. The lack of foliage combined with the cold temperatures creates conditions unfavorable for high scab incidence. If we fall into a pattern of frequent rain events, growers should stay on a tight spray program and pay

close attention to coverage. Two potential issues are traveling too fast trying to make up for lost time and spraying when winds are too high. On the other hand, if the rains disappear and conditions remain dry, extend the intervals between fungicide applications if possible.

Downy Spot

Jason Brock

Downy spot occurs sporadically, primarily on 'Stuart', and typically on trees not managed for scab. Wet weather following budbreak will favor spore release and infection, although the symptoms will not become apparent until five to seven weeks later. Due to this long latent period, waiting for symptoms before implementing control measures does not work. Unlike scab, this disease only occurs on foliage and the damage is limited to early leaf drop. Fungicide applications to control scab should be effective for downy spot as well.

DATES TO REMEMBER

***Georgia Pecan Growers Association
Annual Meeting
Georgia National Fairgrounds
Perry, GA
May 7, 2009***

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