



# Pest e-alerts



Entomology and Plant Pathology, Oklahoma State University  
127 Noble Research Center, Stillwater, OK74078  
405.744.5527

Vol. 13, No. 23

<http://entopl.okstate.edu/Pddl/>

Jul 25, 2014

## Evil Pecan Weevil

Jackie Lee, Extension Entomologist



Have you ever cracked a pecan and found a creamy white larva with a red head munching on the nut, or nothing at all? If so, you have experienced the pecan weevil. This weevil is native to Oklahoma and considered one of our primary pecan pests. The adult weevils lay eggs in pecans and the larvae feed on the developing kernels. Larvae chew a round exit hole in the nut, fall to the ground from that opening, and pupate in the soil. They can remain in the soil 1-2 years.



Images courtesy bugwood.org



In Oklahoma peak adult weevil emergence generally occurs in late August to mid-September; however this timing can be earlier or later depending on soil moisture and type. Typically, weevil emergence will increase 3-4 days after a 1-2 inch rainfall. Trapping and monitoring for pecan weevil is important until shuck split. After pecan weevils emerge from the soil, they will enter the tree by flying to the canopy or crawling up the trunk. Around 85% of the weevils will crawl up the trunk, which allows us to put up traps to intercept them before they damage pecans. This explains why circle traps, which fit around the trunk, have been found to be more efficient than other trap types.

Trapping is a great way for homeowners and small grove owners to protect pecans from extensive weevil damage. In late July or early August, place circle traps around all pecan trees to intercept these pests. They should go around the entire circumference of the tree. Two – three traps may be needed for larger trees. Check traps daily and kill all weevils you find in the traps.

If you have a large number of trees and have access to spray equipment (airblast sprayer recommended), a monitoring program will need to be put in place to determine the correct timing to spray for weevils. Place 2 traps on 10 trees and monitor them often. Choose trees that have early maturing varieties or located in sandier soils because these areas will be where pecan weevil will emerge first. When you catch over 0.33 weevils per trap per day, apply an insecticide labeled for pecan weevil. For a list of recommended insecticides for pecan disease and insect control, please consult [CR-6209](#), which can be found at the link below. Monitor for weevil emergence until the end of shuck split; their emergence can be staggered and multiple insecticide applications may be required. For more information on circle trap construction and pecan weevil monitoring and biology consult [EPP-7190](#) and [EPP-7079](#) which can be found at your local Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service office or online at <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/HomePage>. Circle traps are available pre-made from Great Lakes IPM and Gemplers.

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**Dr. Richard Grantham - Director, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory**

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