

PECAN

MANAGEMENT CALENDAR



SPRING

SPRING

MARCH

APRIL

MAY



MARCH

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

Finish up any ground work not yet completed.

PRUNING

Prune damaged or dead branches. Also prune any limbs or branches that hang low or interfere with the operation of the orchard.

- Last year's grafts: If you grafted trees last year, you will need train the graft as a central leader by removing competition and do a "tip" prune back to stimulate growth.

GRAFTWOOD

You should finish collecting any graftwood by early March.

PEST CONTROL

Multiple pests can be in the orchard at any time. Buy or restock pesticide supplies for the upcoming production season.

- Gopher: Use a gopher plow around the outside of the orchard if gopher damage is identified.
- Scale insects/Mites: Dormant oils should be applied before bud break, but temperatures during and after application need to be in the range of 50 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Perform maintenance on sprayers.

IRRIGATION

Make needed repairs to the irrigation system.

FERTILIZE

Fertilization depends on the age of the tree.

- First-year trees: Do not fertilize now. Correct amount and timing instructions will be in the May issue of Noble News and Views.
- Second-year trees: Apply 1/2 pound of 46-0-0 every three weeks. Do not continue past the middle of July.
- Third-year trees: Apply 1 pound of 46-0-0 every three weeks. Do not continue past the middle of July.
- 4-year-old and older trees: On production trees, apply fertilizer according to the leaf analysis from the previous July.

APRIL

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

If weeds are a problem in the orchard, a pre-emergent herbicide can be applied to the orchard floor as needed. Start maintaining the vegetation on the orchard floor through mowing or grazing. More on weed management in pecans can be found at noble.org/pecan-weed-mgmt.

DISEASE CONTROL

Apply pre-pollination scab spray to susceptible varieties when leaves are about one-half normal size.

PRUNING

Finish pruning by mid-April.

GRAFTING

Start grafting when the bark begins to slip. Watch videos on how to graft using the following methods:

- Bark graft: noble.org/texas-inlay-graft
- Four-flap graft: noble.org/banana-graft
- Fertilize: It is best to finish fertilization before budbreak.

ZINC SPRAY

On mature trees, apply foliar applications of zinc at the rate of 6 pounds of zinc sulfate (36 percent) per acre as leaves begin to unfold. For young trees, apply foliar zinc at a rate of 2 pounds of zinc sulfate (36 percent) per acre in two-week intervals beginning as leaves unfold.

HERBICIDE SPRAY

Apply a pre-emergent herbicide. Start maintenance of your vegetation-free strips.

PEST CONTROL

Multiple pests can be in the orchard at any time. Additional information on controlling overwintering insects (hickory shoot curculio, sawfly, leaf hoppers) and other pests can be viewed at bit.ly/pecan-pest-ctrl.

- Casebearer: Set out casebearer traps by the end of the month and start monitoring the pest level, in the southern half of Oklahoma. Check traps at least three times per week (daily preferred) to determine the first male moth capture.
- Phylloxera: If phylloxera was in the orchard during the previous year, spray the tree between bud break and 2 inches of shoot growth. Some chemicals will require a second spray seven to 10 days later. Symptoms appear in July but cannot be controlled at that time.



MAY

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

If weeds are a problem, an herbicide can be applied to the orchard floor as needed. Continue maintaining orchard floor vegetation by mowing or grazing.

DISEASE CONTROL

Apply pre-pollination scab spray to susceptible varieties when leaves are about one-half the normal size. After pollination, use the Mesonet scab model (bit.ly/pecan-scab-map) to determine when to apply fungicide to susceptible varieties.

GRAFTING

Continue grafting. Watch videos on how to graft using the following methods:

- Bark graft: noble.org/texas-inlay-graft
- Four-flap graft: noble.org/banana-graft

IRRIGATION

Orchard irrigation will most likely begin this month, depending on rainfall.

FERTILIZE

If a split application of nitrogen was applied, fertilize trees with remaining fertilizer.

FIRST-YEAR TREES

After 6 to 8 inches of growth has developed, fertilize with 1/3 pound of 19-19-19 in a band 18 inches long, 12 inches from the tree. If growth continues, apply 1/3 to 1/2 pound of 46-0-0 every three weeks, not to continue past the middle of July.

ZINC SPRAY

On mature trees, apply second foliar applications of zinc at the rate of 6 pounds of zinc sulfate (36 percent) per acre. For young trees, continue to apply foliar zinc at a rate of 2 pounds of zinc sulfate (36 percent) per acre in two-week intervals.

HERBICIDE SPRAY

Continue spraying your vegetation-free strips as needed.

PEST CONTROL

Continue to monitor for pests.

CASEBEARER

In the northern half of Oklahoma, set out traps and start monitoring. In the southern half, continue to monitor traps at least three times a week (daily preferred) to determine the first male moth capture. Begin spraying 16 to 20 days after you see the first significant capture.

SUMMER

SUMMER

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

JUNE

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

If weeds are a problem, an herbicide can be applied to the orchard floor as needed. Continue maintaining the vegetation by mowing or grazing.

DISEASE CONTROL

Use the Mesonet scab model (bit.ly/pecan-scab-map) to determine when to apply fungicide to susceptible varieties.

IRRIGATION

Orchard irrigation will continue this month, depending on rainfall.

ZINC SPRAY

On mature trees, apply the third and final foliar applications of zinc at the rate of 6 pounds of zinc sulfate (36 percent) per acre. Zinc can be tank-mixed with pecan nut casebearer spray and fungicide if needed to limit trips through the orchard. For young trees, continue to apply foliar zinc at a rate of 2 pounds of zinc sulfate (36 percent) per acre in two-week intervals.

HERBICIDE SPRAY

Continue spraying your vegetation-free strips as needed.

PEST CONTROL

Monitor the orchard for pecan nut casebearer and begin spraying 16 to 20 days after you see the first significant capture. Order your pecan weevil traps if you do not already have them. Monitor the orchard for additional pests such as aphids, caterpillars and fall web worm.

CROP LOAD

Determine crop size by counting the number of clusters per 100 shoots. Crop size is low if less than 40 percent, 40 to 70 percent is good, and more than 70 percent is heavy crop.

JULY

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

If weeds are a problem, an herbicide can be applied to the orchard floor as needed. Continue maintaining the vegetation by mowing or grazing.

DISEASE CONTROL

Use the Mesonet scab model (bit.ly/pecan-scab-map) to determine when to apply fungicide to susceptible varieties.

ZINC SPRAY

For young trees, apply last foliar zinc at a rate of 2 pounds of zinc sulfate (36 percent) per acre.

HERBICIDE SPRAY

Continue spraying your vegetation-free strips as needed.

PEST CONTROL

Continue to monitor the orchard for pests. Scout orchard for aphids and caterpillars. Take note of beneficial insects and do not spray for aphids if the beneficial insect level is sufficient.

- Casebearer: Continue monitoring for second-generation pecan nut casebearer.
- Hickory Shuckworm: If you have a history of hickory shuckworm, spray at shell hardening.
- Weevil: Install weevil circle traps by mid-July.

LEAF SAMPLE

In the first two weeks of July, collect leaf samples for analysis. You will base next year's fertilization on these samples. Collect samples from each management area and label for easy identification. Watch a how-to video on leaf sampling at noble.org/pecan-leaf-sampling.

CROP LOAD

When the kernel is halfway to being fully expanded in the water stage, thin excessive fruit load off of trees.

ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

Observe tree spacing and mark trees for removal if there is greater than 60 percent shade on the orchard floor.

AUGUST

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

If weeds are a problem, an herbicide can be applied to the orchard floor. Continue maintaining orchard floor vegetation through mowing or grazing. Remove livestock from the orchard by Sept. 1 for harvest preparation.

DISEASE CONTROL

Use the Mesonet (bit.ly/pecan-scab-map) scab model to determine when to apply fungicide to susceptible varieties.

HERBICIDE SPRAY

Continue spraying your vegetation-free strips as needed.

PEST CONTROL

Continue to monitor for pests such as twig girdler, aphids and caterpillars. Take note of beneficial insects, and do not spray for aphids if the insect level is sufficient.

HICKORY SHUCKWORM

If you have a history of hickory shuckworm, spray at shell hardening in northern Oklahoma.

Weevil: Monitor traps for emergence and spray when threshold is met.

HARVEST

Do a pre-harvest maintenance check on all harvest equipment. Remove branches and other debris from the orchard floor.

FALL

FALL

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER



SEPTEMBER

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

Floor maintenance depends on your management system. Regardless of the system used, you should have a clean floor, free of debris that has been cut short.

PEST CONTROL

Continue to monitor for pests such as twig girdler, aphids and caterpillars. Control of wildlife works best if started before the harvest and continued during harvest. During this time, crows, blue jays and squirrels will be an issue. For more information on pests, visit www.noble.org/pecan-predators.

WEEVIL

Monitor traps for emergence and spray when threshold is met.

WILD HOGS

Control wild hogs with traps like the BoarBuster trap. Learn more at www.noble.org/boarbuster-deliveries.

CROWS AND BLUE JAYS

Use sound deterrents like an air cannon or a BirdGard system. Learn about BirdGard at bit.ly/birdgard.

SQUIRRELS

Control with hunting.

HARVEST

Do a pre-harvest maintenance check on all harvest equipment. Remove branches and other debris from the orchard floor. Start harvesting pecans as soon as 70 percent of shuck-split occurs.

ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

Mark trees for removal that are damaged and have small or undesirable pecans.

OCTOBER

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

Floor maintenance depends on your management system. Regardless of the system used, you should have a clean floor, free of debris that has been cut low.

PEST CONTROL

Continue to monitor for pests. Wildlife control works best if begun before the harvest and continued during harvest. During this time, crows, blue jays and squirrels will be an issue.

WILD HOGS

Control wild hogs with traps like the BoarBuster trap.

CROWS AND BLUE JAYS

Use sound deterrents like an air cannon or a BirdGard system.

SQUIRRELS

Control with hunting.

HARVEST

Continue to harvest your pecans.

ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

Mark trees for removal that are damaged and have small or undesirable pecans.

PLANTING

Plant container-grown trees.

NOVEMBER

HARVEST

Continue to harvest your pecans.

ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

Mark trees for removal that are damaged, and have small or undesirable pecans.

PECAN NUT SHOW

Select the best examples of each nut cultivar and submit to the local or state show. Learn more about the Oklahoma State Pecan Show at bit.ly/opga-show

WINTER

WINTER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

12

DECEMBER

HARVEST

Continue to harvest your pecans.

ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

Mark for removal damaged trees and those with small or undesirable pecans.

01

JANUARY

HARVEST

Continue harvest if needed.

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

Complete needed ground work like tilling and packing (to smooth any rough spots on the orchard floor), remove debris left over from harvest, etc.

GRAFTWOOD

Collect graftwood while the trees are dormant. For more information on graftwood collection practices, visit bit.ly/storing-pecan-wood.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Once harvest is complete, clean and perform any equipment maintenance needed before storing.

ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

Remove trees marked the previous year for removal.

PLANTING

Start planting trees.

PRUNING

Decisions will depend on the age of the tree.

- Young trees (trees not in production): Train to a central leader. Remove competing leaders and weak crotches.
- Older trees (trees that are producing): Remove damaged branches and low hanging branches that interfere with tree management.

02

FEBRUARY

IRRIGATION

Make needed repairs to the irrigation system. Install new irrigation in orchard expansion areas. Make sure irrigation systems meet the minimum watering requirements for your area. In Oklahoma and Texas, the recommendation is for 1-2 inches of water per week in a pecan orchard. Use soil moisture sensors to determine when available water reaches the bottom of the root zone. For more information on pecan water needs visit noble.org/shapeup-pecan-irrigation.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Once harvest is completed, clean and perform any equipment maintenance before storing.

ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

Remove trees marked for removal during the previous year.

HARVEST

Continue harvest if needed. Try to finish up harvest by the end of the month.

FLOOR MAINTENANCE

Continue any needed ground work. Till and pack to smooth any rough spots on the orchard floor, remove any debris left over from harvest, etc.

PRUNING

Decisions will depend on the age of the tree.

- Young trees (trees not in production): Train to a central leader. Remove competing leaders and weak crotches.
- Older trees (trees that are producing): Remove damaged and low hanging branches that interfere with tree management.

GRAFTWOOD

Collect graftwood while the trees are dormant.

PLANTING

Continue planting trees.

