

July 2026

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA PECAN PRESS

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



Tattnall County

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2026 SOUTHEAST GA PECAN FIELD DAY

By Andrew Sawyer, Area Pecan Agent

The 2026 crop has set and started to expand in size on our trees. I have been out checking what we have in Southeast Georgia. The crop I see looks similar to 2025. If I compare the counted terminals to last year, I am probably a little less than 2025. I do observe a consistent crop in 'Excel'. The 'Oconee' look to be in an off-year, though they do have a small crop. I observed some old 'Stuarts' with a good crop, but I have information from growers of older 'Stuart' crop being light. Our 'Pawnee' crop is up and down. Growers are positive about their 'Sumner', and 'Desirable' seems to be a decent crop.

I am excited to announce the 2026 Southeast Pecan Field Day back in Appling County. Some may remember that Mr. Wilbur Murray hosted the first of these field days over 10 years ago. His county agent, Will Brown, is managing a low-input fungicide project for 'Excel'. This is replicated in three other counties and is information we need. We will also share information from a new grant on Integrated Pest Management, which is focuses on converging our information across the Southeastern U.S. This is for you to save the date. More later!

2026

Southeast Georgia
Pecan Field Day



SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 26TH

Wilbur Murray Farms

Appling County

MID-SEASON PECAN UPDATE

By Dr. Lenny Wells, UGA Horticulturalist

Our pathologist, Dr. Clemen Oliveira has observed some cases of insensitivity development with Miravis Top and Miravis Prime in 2025 and 2026. It is not occurring everywhere, but it has been found in more than one orchard in different areas of the state. These products have been a game-changer for us in control of nut scab and we desperately need them to remain. That can only happen if we are good stewards of this chemistry. You do not want to over-use these materials. This is why we recommend them **ONLY** for nut scab season from June-August. They work on leaf scab as well but we have other materials that do a great job on leaf scab. We need the Miravis products for nut scab.

While the label says you should use no more than two sequential applications of Miravis Top, I strongly caution you against using any Miravis products back to back. We feel it is best to rotate Miravis Top or Miravis Prime with Dodine or Dodine/Tin every spray. Miravis Top has two fungicide chemistries, a Group 3 and a Group 7. Miravis Prime also has two chemistries: a Group 7 and a Group 12. Therefore if you spray Miravis Top and then go to Miravis Prime the following spray, you are not rotating chemistries. You are throwing that Group 7 out there two sprays in a row, making it easier for scab to adapt to the seven and develop resistance. **For the purposes of rotation, you should treat Miravis Top and Miravis Prime as the same product.** The same goes for rotating Miravis Top with something like Custodia or TopGuard or Absolute or anything with a Group 3. The best rotation partners for the Miravis products are Dodine or Dodine/Tin. **The Dodine/Tin combo still provides some of the best nut scab protection out there.** By the label it is suggested to use the Miravis products *only 4 times per season*. However, in the interest of protecting the future of this chemistry, *I recommend trying to keep your Miravis product applications down to 3 per season if possible, using them at critical times (now through July) and rotating them each time with Dodine or Dodine/Tin until mid August and never use them back to back.*

IN A NUTSHELL: THE PECAN PODCAST

By Andrew Sawyer, Area Pecan Agent

We are excited to share with you a new podcast from the UGA Pecan Team. Our plan is to build the podcast with current information on the basics of growing pecans. We then hope to expand to additional pecan scientists and growers. Seven episodes have now been published that you can listen to on Apple, Spotify, Amazon, and more.

[Episode 1 - Introduction](#)

[Episode 2 - The Economics of Pecan Production](#)

[Episode 3 - Planting & Establishing a Pecan Orchard](#)

[Episode 4 - Pecan Nutcase Bearer and Early Insect Management](#)

[Episode 5 - What Does it take to Develop a Pecan Cultivar?](#)

[Episode 6 - Managing Pecan Scab: Biology, Research & Resistance](#)

[Episode 7 - 2026 Mid-Season Crop Update & The Physiology of Nut Drop](#)



EAST GA PECAN FIELD DAY WRAP UP

By Pamela Sapp, Jefferson County Extension Agent

The 6th East Georgia Pecan Field Day was held at Mr. Ben Menthei's orchard in Jefferson County. With 48 people in attendance, pecan growers, industry and representatives from Extension toured the 7-year-old orchard and finished with words from industry. Touring the orchard, we began with a look at 'Byrd' variety. This variety is one of the most susceptible to pecan scab. These trees were very clean with scab due to our extended drought and its good location. Mrs. Johanna Wesche, post-doctoral student under Dr. Clemen Oliveria, presented information to growers concerning fungicide sensitivity. There is some concern from the sensitivity profiles the UGA Pathology lab currently observes. UGA Department of Pathology has a test in which growers can test for sensitivity to fungicides. There is a \$200.00 charge for this service to cover the screening for sensitivity. For orchards with high susceptible pecan varieties, a sensitivity test may be recommended.



Dr. Apurba Barman demonstrated integrated pest management as part of the IPM Working Group



Grower Ben Montei describes his fungicide program



Burke County Agent Cliff Collins shares new pre-emergent herbicide rotations

At the following stop, Burke County Agent Cliff Collins discussed on-farm pre-emergent herbicide applications for growers with newly planted trees. At the location of last year's field day, Chateau applied at the full 12 -ounce rate provided the most economical control at \$51.75 / acre compared to \$83.25 / acre post-emergent herbicides. For comparison, all applications were made one time and compared 110 days after application. On the Vidalia Onion & Vegetable Research Center, the full, 12-ounce rate of Chateau is equal in control to two-separate 6 oz / acre applications of Chateau.

Area Pecan Agent, Andrew Sawyer, continued the discussion on economics of pecan production. This included hedging and spacing of trees. Growers and Extension are now observing tighter spacing requiring frequent hedging which reduces the time needed for fruiting branches to re-develop. Each face of the tree should be hedged **once every four years** for optimum return crop. At our last stop, Bailey Segars from American Pecan Council shared her research on hedging and irrigation conducted as PhD student under Dr. Wells. The Georgia Pecan Grower's Association was represented by Scout Weesner from the Tifton office and board member, Arren Moses of Uvalda.

Robyn Stewart of Lincoln County organized and hosted the first of these field days in 2021 with Area Agent Andrew Sawyer. The field day moved to this area the following year and has found itself a great rotation among growers. Robyn continues to help organize this field day along with Burke County Agents Peyton Sapp and Cliff Collins. I am greatly indebted to Jefferson County pecan growers who serve as stakeholders for this field day. They determine the location each year and provide resources to execute the duties of the field day. Of course, we are all greatly indebted to our sponsors who have essentially taken on an additional pecan meeting to support. We have pecan industry and local industry sponsor each year. We look forward to seeing you next year!

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Figure 3. Chris Clough of Clough Pecan taught a grafting clinic for the Johnson County Young Farmers on May 12th



Figure 4. Jason Edenfield, Steven Powell, Jared Walls, Andrew Sawyer & Lauren Stanley in Montgomery County on April 7th



Figure 5. Screven County Agent Jacob Atkinson and Jenkins Co Agent Scout Carter rating horseweed herbicide plots in Screven County on June 8th



Figure 6. Tattnall Agent Jonathan Smith, grower Justin Foster and Bert Oliver in Tattnall County on June 3rd



Figure 7. Bert Oliver, Andrew and Curt Freeman on June 2nd



Figure 8. Andrew and son Jonathan Sawyer at the Alabama Pecan Field Day at Futrual Farm on May 29th

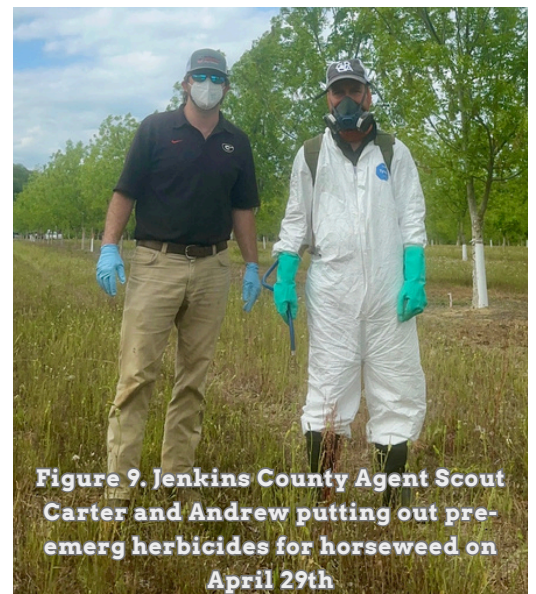


Figure 9. Jenkins County Agent Scout Carter and Andrew putting out pre-emerg herbicides for horseweed on April 29th

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All materials written and reviewed by
the UGA Extension Pecan Cohort.

Upcoming Events

August 26, 2026 - **Southeast Georgia Pecan Field Day** -
Baxley, GA

September 3, 2026 - **GPGA Fall Field Day** - Leesburg, GA

