

Pecan Inquiry – October 2021

(PECAN AP)



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service**



NOD – Training Group
September 2021



Pecan Inquiry Overview

- Essentially an Ag Yield survey for pecans:
 - Helps producers develop marketing plans for their operations.
 - Enables the industry to forecast transportation and storage requirements and evaluate export potential.
 - Used by USDA agencies to determine crop insurance and disaster aid payments, along with other program benefits.
 - Used by grower organizations to help form policy positions.

General Survey Information

- Project Code: **142 - Tree Nut Survey**
- Questionnaires:
 - Mailed September 23
 - Web reporting option available
- Release:
 - *Crop Production*
 - October 12, 12.00 PM (Eastern)

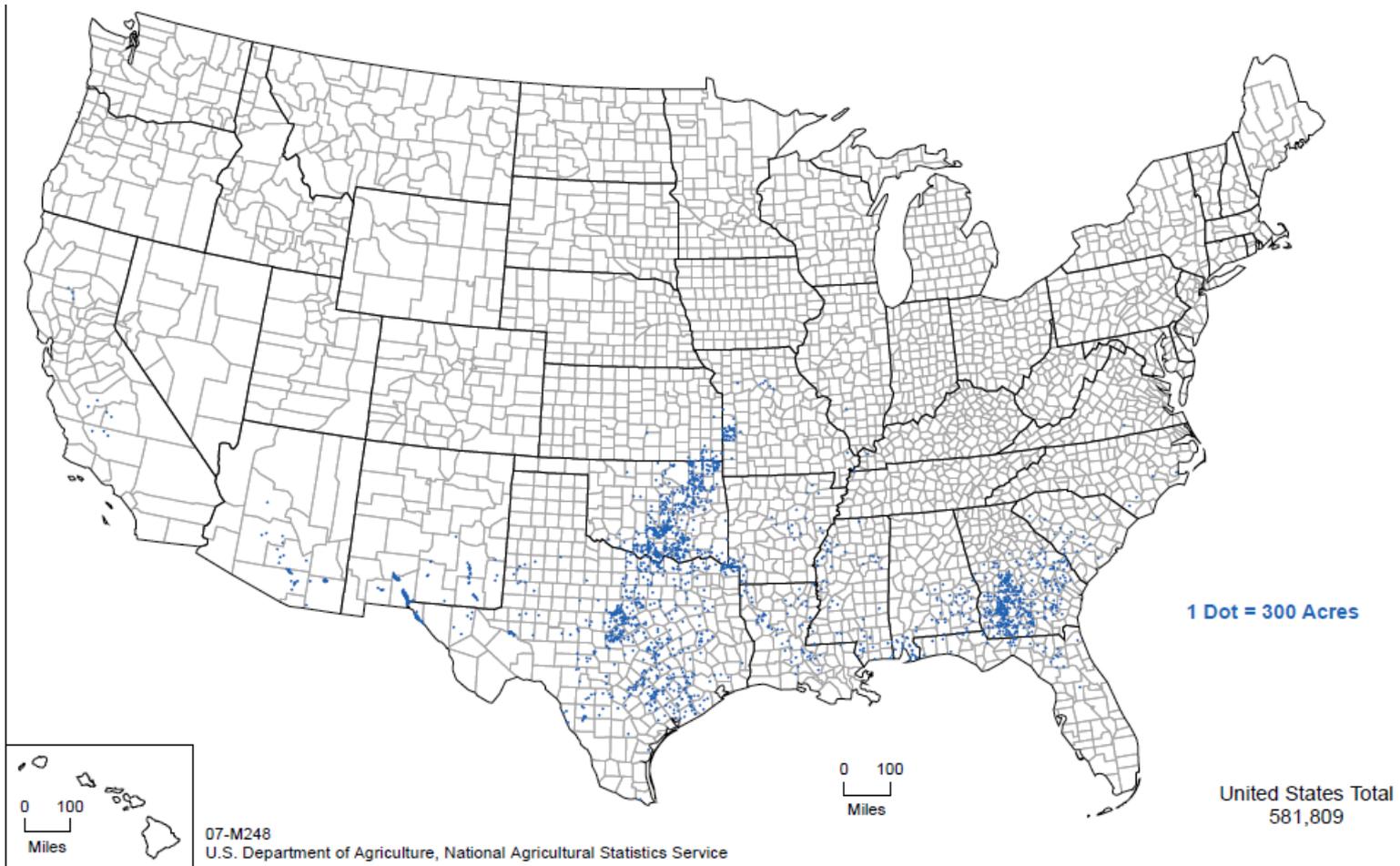
Definitions

- **Improved Varieties:** These trees are the result of careful grafting and budding.
 - Usually planted in managed, cultivated groves.
 - Shell is much thinner than that of the seedling and consequently its meat yield is normally higher.
 - The appearance is nicer and larger, making it a favorite of home cooks and gourmet commercial users.
- **Native or Seedling:** Growing wild, usually unattended and not cultivated.
 - However, there are some large areas where they are well-managed and cultivated.
 - The nut is smaller than the improved type but its flavor and full firm meat make it especially adaptable for commercial uses.

Definitions

- **Total Acres:** Net acres in commercial orchards or groves. Includes bearing and non-bearing acreage.
- **Bearing Acres:** Fruit or nut trees of sufficient age to produce a marketable crop.
- **Alternate Bearing:** Resulting from carbohydrate build-up, this phenomenon produces normal to above normal yields one year, followed by smaller yields the next year.

Additional Information



Survey Questions

- Any **pecan** acreage this year (2021)?
 - How many total acres of pecan trees were maintained this year?
 - How many bearing age acres maintained?
 - Report Total and then Native/Improved separately
- Total **pounds harvested**/to be harvested this year
- Of those, how many:
 - Pounds of Improved Varieties
 - Pounds of Native and Seedling
 - Improved + Native **MUST** = Total Pounds
 - **If not, creates a Hard Error**

2020 Pecan Data

- Average yield: 752 lbs/acre
 - Highest: New Mexico 1,710 lbs/acre
 - Lowest: Oklahoma 85 lbs/acre
- Bearing Acres: 402,000
 - Georgia #1 with 129,000 acres
- 302,000,000 lbs produced (up 18% from 2019)
 - Improved variety accounts for 95% of total crop

Watch For:

- Large acreage
- Large changes in acreage
- Low bearing to total acres
- High/low yield
- Improved + Native MUST = Total
- Improved/Native production but no Improved/Native acres reported

Things to Be Aware Of

- Some farmers may say it's too soon to know production. Ask for best estimate
- Asking for 2021 crop
 - Harvest begins in the fall for some and extends into the next year
- We want them to only include fall 2021, Jan-Mar of 2022 harvest information
- Hurricane Ida
 - Make notes if operator reports damage to their pecan trees!

Things to Be Aware Of

- If the respondent doesn't know which variety he or she has, record the acreage, and leave a comment!
- If the respondent gives a name for the tree, for example Pawnee or Kiowa, it's likely an improved variety. Leave a comment!
- If trees are scattered in a pasture, get the best estimate of tree acres and not pasture acres.

Reluctant Responses

- Small farmer/operation
 - I'm glad you brought that up. All pecan growing operations are important, big or small. The management practices of a smaller operation are different from the larger ones, and this is your chance to let your voice be heard. Information you provide can help others become aware of the challenges facing smaller pecan growers such as yourself.

Conclusion

- Notes are your friend:
 - When in doubt, comment it out
 - Extra information is especially important for specialty crops
- Any last questions or thoughts?
- Practice Exercises

