

Pecan Inquiry – October

Enumerator Training



[Overview Video](#)

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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**
- Release:
 - *Crop Production*
 - Around October 9, 12.00 PM (Eastern)

Pecans



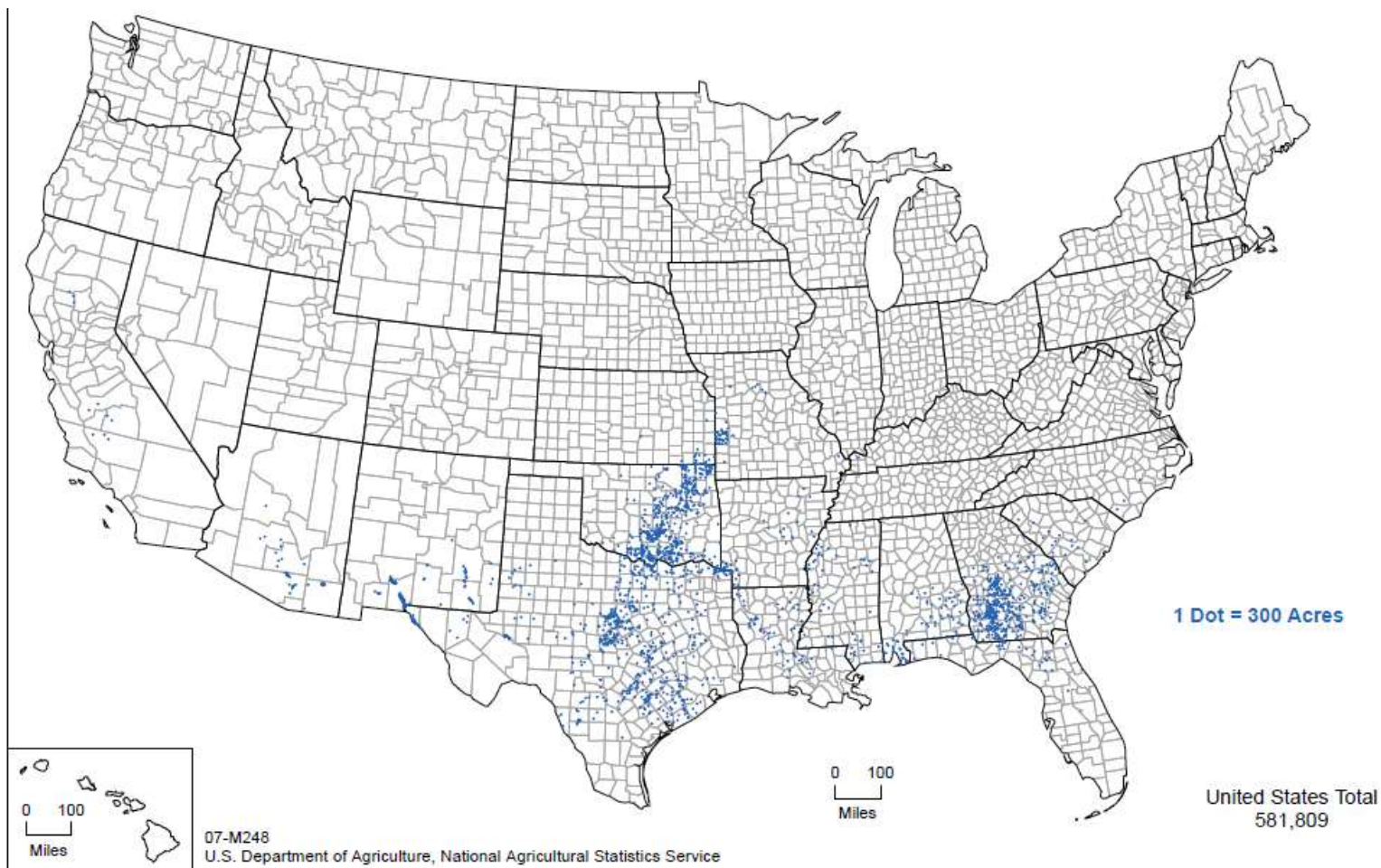
Definitions

- **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



Harvesting Pecans



Questionnaire Versions

- Version 1: Arizona, Georgia, New Mexico
 - Only asking for 'pecans'
- Version 2: Oklahoma and Texas
 - Asks both 'Improved' and 'Wild Native'

Survey Questions

- Any **pecan** acreage this year?
 - If NO: Screening Questions
 - If Yes: 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**

Watch For:

- Large acreages
- Large changes in acreage
- Low bearing to total acres
 - Leave a note explaining why acres aren't bearing
- High/low yield
 - Notes to explain and/or confirm outliers are always appreciated by statisticians!
 - Could be due to alternate bearing
- Improved + Native variety amounts don't match up with total acres or pounds

Watch For

- Some farmers may say it's too soon to know production. Ask for best estimate
- Asking for current year crop
 - Harvest begins in the fall for some and extends into the next year
- We want them to only include fall of current year and Jan-Mar of next year harvest information

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.

In Conclusion...

- Comments are your friend:
 - When in doubt, leave a comment on the record
 - Extra information is especially important for specialty crops
- Review the training material and questionnaire before interviewing to make sure you're familiar with all questions, terms, routing, etc.