

campus



These pecans are only a few of the 75 million trees this year.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Bowl delegate to be selected from TAMU

Applications for the 1980 Cotton Bowl representative from Texas A&M University are now available in the Student Activities Office, Room 221 of the Memorial Student Center.

Female students who have completed one semester at Texas A&M and have at least a 2.25 GPR may apply.

The applicant who is selected will represent the University at the Cotton Bowl parade and post season football game in Dallas on New Year's Day.

The deadline for applications is 5 p.m., Wednesday. For more information call 845-1133.

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Weather aids production

Pecan harvest to be large

By LAURA HERTENBERGER
Battalion Reporter

Whether you like 'em right off the ground or baked into brownies, this year's pecan huge pecan crop should please both growers and consumers.

The Texas Pecan Growers Association expects a harvest of 75 million of the 100 million pounds of pecans on Texas' trees this year, said Dr. George Ray McEachern.

McEachern, a horticulturist responsible for pecan production and management, works through the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at Texas A&M University. He said several factors contributed to this year's large crop.

"Pecan trees are alternate bearers," McEachern said. "1978 was an off year with a small crop, so a larger crop was expected this year."

The very cold, wet winter we had satisfied the chilling requirement necessary for conditioning buds for good spring growth, he said. There were also no significant spring freezes to interfere with pollination.

McEachern said cool spring temperatures retarded the development of pecan scab, a disease that can be a problem to growers in Texas. He also said the pecan nut casebearer, a pest that usually appears in early May and can reduce the state's crop from 30 percent to 60 percent.

McEachern said he does not expect pecan prices to drop despite the increase in volume. "There has been a steady increase in pecan prices over the past few years," he said. "This year's prices should remain about the same as last year."

Growers are receiving \$1.40 to \$1.90 per pound for Wichitaw and other high quality pecans.

When buying pecans, McEachern said, consumers should check the percent kernel, freedom from blemishes and then size of the nuts. A large pecan with a high percent kernel free from black spots, dark coloring, fuzz and shriveling is the best buy, he said.

Although the trees may be found across most of the state, Hood, San Saba and Guadalupe counties are Texas leading pecan producers.

The Texas Pecan Orchard Management Shortcourses held on the Texas A&M campus attract growers from all over the world, McEachern said. The next course, which includes 36 hours of instruction, is scheduled for Jan. 20-Feb. 1.

McEachern said Wichitaw pecans are being sold by the A&M Horticulture Club from 3 to 6 p.m. weekday afternoons at the horticulture farm just east of the main campus on Highway 60. The pecans, grown on George Koch's farm in Hondo are available in 5 and 10 pound bags at \$1.45 per pound.

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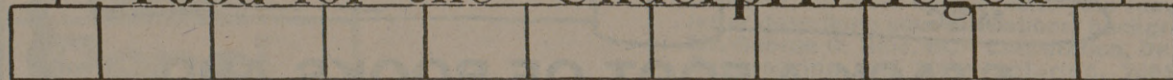
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