Pecan



plantdiseasehandbook.tamu.edu/food-crops/nut-crops/pecan/

Carya illinoensis

Scab

Fungal pathogen	Cladosporium caryigenum, (prev. Fusicladium effusum, Cladosporium effusum)	
Area(s) affected	Leaves, nuts and green twigs	
Signs/Symptoms	Small, circular, olive-green to black spots form on the lower surface of the leaf and nuts. These spots may have a velvety or cracked appearance. Sometimes these spots coalesce forming large, irregularly shaped darkened areas. On nuts, these spots appear to be sunken in. Infected twigs will exhibit elongated spots parallel to the twig axis. Infected foliage may prematurely drop. When infection is severe, the entire nut surface is black, development is arrested and the nut drops prematurely or fails to grow in the area of infection.	
	Photo credit: University of Georgia Plant Pathology Archive, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org	
	Photo credit: University of Georgia Plant Pathology Archive, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org	

For more information

http://pecankernel.tamu.edu/diseases/#scab

Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. *Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones*. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.

Brown Leaf Spot

Fungal pathogen	Sirosporium diffusum, (syn. Cercospora fusca)	
Area(s) affected	Leaves	
Signs/Symptoms	Circular, reddish brown spots form on the upper and lower leaf surface. Older spots will turn gray and concentric circles will form within the spot. If the disease is not controlled the tree will lose its leaves.	
For more information	http://pecankernel.tamu.edu/diseases/#brown Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.	

Vein Spot

Fungal pathogen	Gnomonia nerviseda	
Area(s) affected	Leaves	
Signs/Symptoms	Smooth, dark brown to black spots form on the vascular structures of the leaf which include: veins, midribs, petioles, and rachises. In the sun, these spots appear greasy or shiny. Premature defoliation will occur. This infection often resembles pecan scab lesions.	
For more information	http://pecankernel.tamu.edu/diseases/#vein Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.	

Leaf Blotch

Fungal pathogen	Mycosphaerella dendroides	
Area(s) affected	Leaves	
Signs/Symptoms	Faint yellow spots develop on the upper leaf surface; these spots eventually turn dark brown. Small, olive-green spots with a velvety appearance form on the lower leaf surface. Premature defoliation may occur.	

For more information

http://pecankernel.tamu.edu/diseases/#leaf

Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. *Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones*. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.

Crown Gall

Bacterial pathogen	Agrobacterium tumefaciens	
Area(s) affected	Trunk and roots	
Signs/Symptoms	Woody tumors or galls form on the base of the trunk and root tissue. If the gall girdles the trunk or main roots, the tree may be killed. Photo credit: Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org	
For more information	Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.	

Downy Spot

Fungal pathogen	Mycosphaerella caryigena	
Area(s) affected	Leaves	
Signs/Symptoms	Circular, light yellow spots form on the lower leaf surface. These spots may be covered with a white fuzzy growth. As the disease progresses, these spots become visible on the upper leaf surface. The upper leaf surface spots are yellow, while the lower leaf surface spots turn golden brown. Premature defoliation may occur.	
For more information	http://pecankernel.tamu.edu/diseases/#downy Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.	

Powdery Mildew

Fungal pathogen	Microsphaera penicillata	
Area(s) affected	Nuts and leaves	
Signs/Symptoms	A white powdery growth develops on infected nut shucks and leaves.	
	Photo credit: Jerry A. Payne, USDAAgricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org	
For more information	Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.	

Pecan Bacterial Leaf Scorch (BLS)

Fungal pathogen(s)	Xylella fastidiosa, Phomopsis sp., and Glomerella cingulata	
Area(s) affected	Leaves	
Signs/Symptoms	Brown to tan dead spots form on the margin or at the tip of the leaf. A distinct dark brown line separates the dead tissue from the living tissue. Eventually the whole leaf will turn brown and die. Premature defoliation will occur. Photo credit: Rebecca A. Melanson, Louisiana State University AgCenter, Bugwood.org	

For more information	Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.
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Bunch Disease

Causal agent	Phytoplasma	
Area(s) affected	Shoots	
Signs/Symptoms	Trees affected with bunch disease show a typical bunching symptom, caused by excessive growth of lateral buds. This results in a dense growth of thin shoots and leaves that resembles a witches' broom.	
For more information	Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.	

Parasitic and Epiphytic Plants

Causal agent(s)	Fungus-algae complex, Tillandsia usneoides, Tillandsia recurvata
Area(s) affected	Trunk and branches

Lichens: Gray to green plant that typically forms crustlike, leaflike, or branching growth on trees.

Spanish Moss: A long, whisker-like plant that hangs from trees.

Ball Moss: It first occurs as small, gray green tufts that develop within a relatively short time into a dense "ball" composed of numerous individual plants. The plants form root-like holdfasts which penetrate into the rough bark of the tree. These holdfasts often completely encircle a limb.



Photo credit: USDA Forest Service – Northeastern Area Archive, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Photo credit: Wendy VanDyk Evans, Bugwood.org



Photo credit: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

For more information

http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/lichens/

https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_tius.pdf

http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=1264

Articularia Leaf Mold

Fungal pathogen	Articularia quercina
Area(s) affected	Leaves
Signs/Symptoms	A growth of white tufts develops on the lower leaf surface.
For more information	

Pink Mold

Fungal pathogen	Trichothecium roseum
Area(s) affected	Nuts
Signs/Symptoms	Pink mold will develop on nuts that are infected with the pecan scab fungus. A white to pink, moldy growth will develop in old scab lesions. If the fungus invades the kernel, it becomes oily and produces a rancid odor.
For more information	http://pecankernel.tamu.edu/diseases/#pink

Cotton Root Rot

Fungal pathogen	Phymatotrichopsis omnivorua, (syn. Phymatotrichum omnivorum)
Area(s) affected	Roots
Signs/Symptoms	Infected trees die suddenly. Root bark is decayed and brownish, and bronze colored wooly strands of the fungus are frequently visble on the root surface. Leaves will turn yellow or brown and will remain attached to the tree.
For more information	Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.

Shuck Decline (Shuck Dieback)

Causal agent	Unknown, possibly physiological stress or hormonal imbalance
Area(s) affected	Nuts

Signs/Symptoms	A dark, thin line forms on the inner surface of the shuck, at the junction with the shell. The inside of the shuck turns dark green and slimy and the dark, thin line progresses toward the exterior. The outer surface of the shuck has a shiny, water-soaked appearance. Beginning at the distal end, the shuck turns brown and then eventually black. The shuck may peal back at the distal end, resembling a tulip.
For more information	Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.

Shuck and Kernel Rot

Fungal pathogen	Phytophthora cactorum
Area(s) affected	Nuts
Signs/Symptoms	Fruit rot begins at the stem end of the fruit and progresses to the tip of the shuck rapidly. The shuck will turn black and become soft and moist. Kernels are inedible.
For more information	Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.

Stem-End Blight

Fungal pathogen	Unknown, suspect Botryosphaeria dothidea, (syn. Botryosphaeria ribs)
Area(s) affected	Nuts
Signs/Symptoms	Black, sunken, shiny spots form at or near the stem-end of the shuck. As the spots enlarge, the shuck will be completely black and the liquid in the kernel turns brown.
For more information	Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.

Root Knot Nematode

Pathogen	Meloidogyne spp.
Area(s) affected	Roots

Signs/Symptoms Feed on the inside of the roots inducing knots or galls on them. These swellings are usually white and round to irregularly elongated. Foliage may wilt, appear stunted, and turn yellow or bronze. Photo credit: David B. Langston, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Kernel Discoloration

For more

information

Fungal pathogen	Nematospora spp.
Area(s) affected	Nuts
Signs/Symptoms	Kernels develop dark spots and may become rotted. Stinkbugs can also cause dark brown to black spots on the kernels.
For more information	Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt. Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.

Phytopathological Society, 2002. Print.

Teviotdale, Beth L., Themistocles John. Michailides, and Jay William. Pscheidt.

Compendium of Nut Crop Diseases in Temperate Zones. St. Paul, MN: American

Fungal Twig Dieback

Fungal pathogen	Botryosphaeria berengeriana
Area(s) affected	Branches
Signs/Symptoms	Infected branches are covered with small raised pustules with black centers.
For more information	

For additional support and current disease management information, contact your local AgriLife Extension Office: http://counties.agrilife.org/

Content editor: Corinne Rhodes, Undergraduate Extension Assistant, Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. This project was performed to satisfy BESC485 requirement under the supervision of Dr. Kevin Ong, kevo@tamu.edu, Director, Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Texas A&M University, Texas AgriLife Extension Service (April 25, 2014)