

Time to Fertilize Pecans
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There is nothing better than going out in the yard in late fall and picking up a few pecan's, cracking them open, and enjoying that sweet tasting nut. For those who have pecan trees, this may be our yearly ritual. To help insure this will happen year after year, now is the time to do your part to keep them healthy.

February is the time to make that most important fertilizer application. Applying fertilizer now allows our trees time to take up those needed nutrients and get them ready for the nut producing process. The following guidelines will help your pecan trees remain healthy and productive.

Fertilization is one of the most important practices for bearing trees. If the trees are to produce a good crop, terminal growth should be six inches each year. In the absence of a leaf analysis or soil test, broadcast four pounds of a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10 for each inch of trunk diameter (measure 4 1/2 feet above soil level). This fertilizer should be applied in mid- to late February. Zinc nutrition is especially important in pecan production. Zinc needs are best determined by analysis of leaf samples taken in late July or early August. Mailing kits and instructions for taking samples are available from your county Extension office. The leaf analysis report will tell you how much zinc to apply. In the absence of a leaf analysis, apply one pound of zinc sulfate to young trees and three to five pounds for large trees each year. A soil pH of 6.0 to 6.5 assures the availability of essential nutrients. If the pH is too low or too high, uptake and use of nutrients is impaired. Apply lime as suggested in the soil test report to correct low pH.

For more information on home grown pecans contact our office for a copy of Extension Circular 744 "Home Garden Pecans" or visit our Extension web site at:

<http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/C744.htm>

For more information on this and other related subjects contact your Catoosa County Extension Office at 43 Maple Street in Ringgold or call (706) 935-4211.