

2021 Non-Bearing Pecan Update

Andrew Sawyer, Southeast Georgia Area Pecan
Agent



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Talking Points

1. Horticulture effects of phosphite sprays on non-bearing trees
2. Terra-Sorb on newly planted trees
3. Drenching insecticide on newly planted trees
4. Most common young tree issues



Should we spray non-bearing trees?

Probably “no” is the right answer

- 2020 UGA Pecan Team



5-Year Desirable, Effingham County 6/11/19

Horticulture effects of phosphite on young trees

K-Phite7LP sprayed on 2-year-old
Caddo
5 applications

Treatments

- 2 quarts K-phite / acre, every three weeks
- 2 quarts K-phite / acre, every six weeks
- 4 quarts K-phite / acre, every three weeks
- 4 quarts K-phite / acre, every six weeks
- Control



Initial Observations



2 qt/A, every 3 weeks

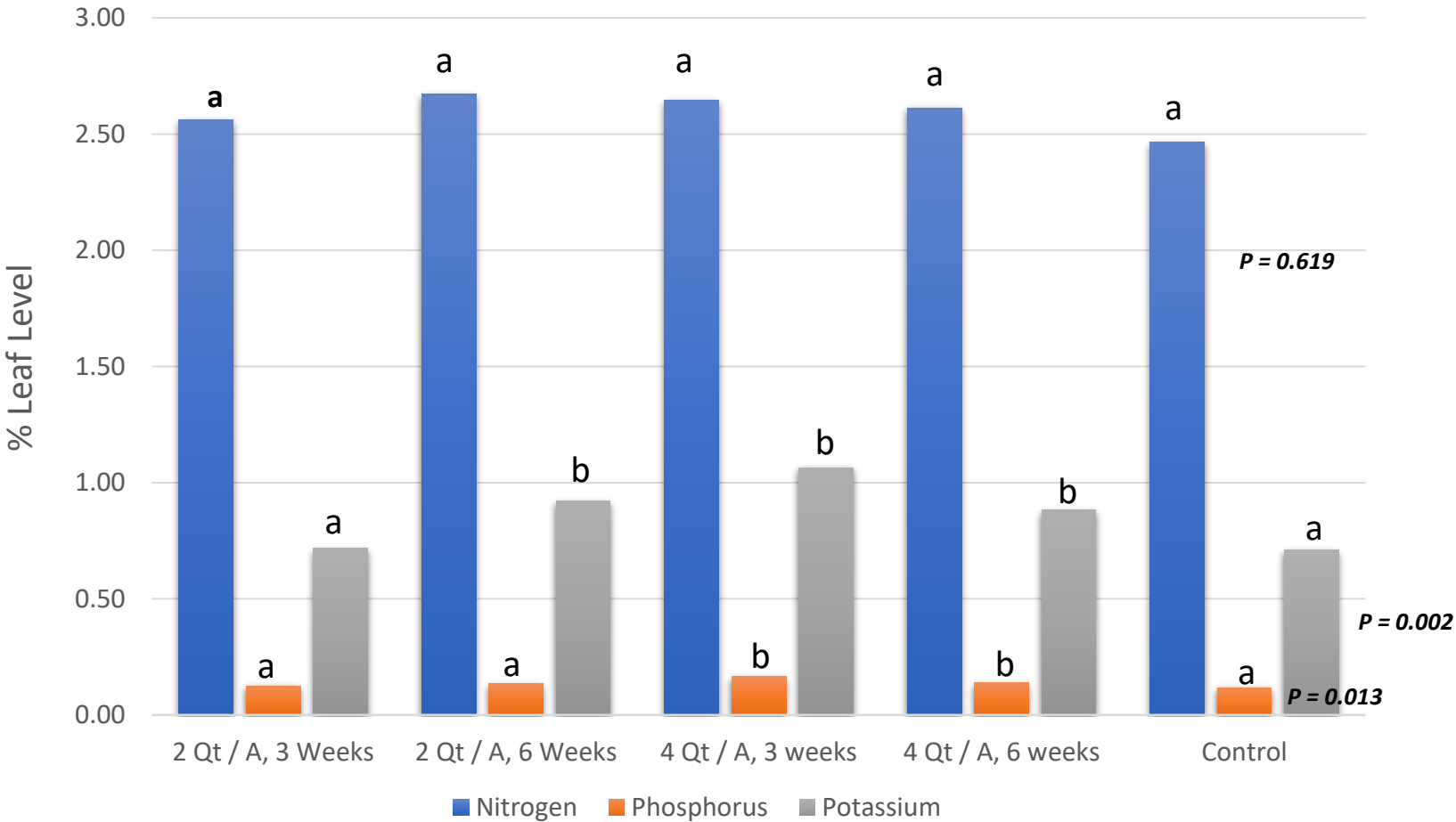


4 qt/A, every 3 weeks

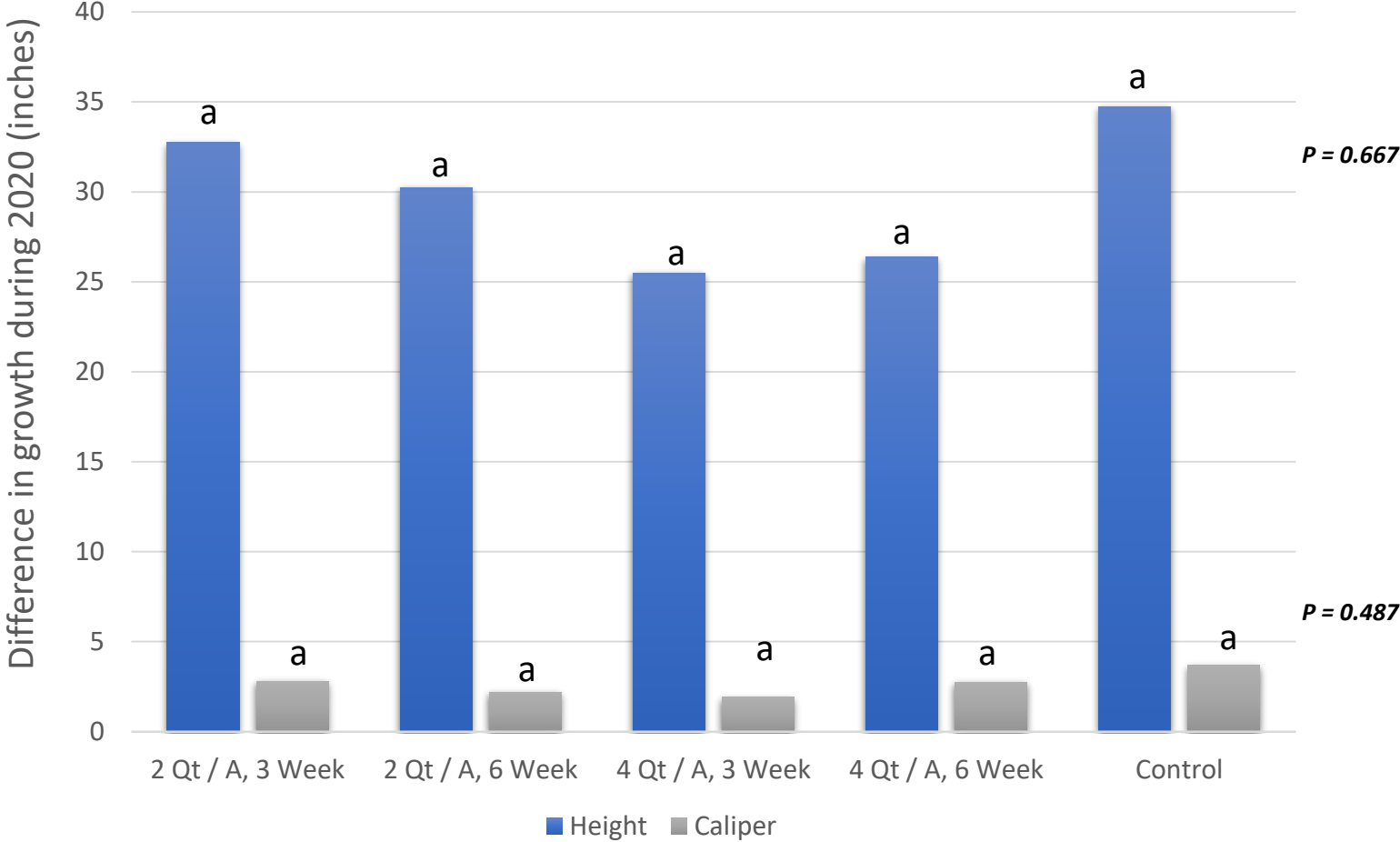


Scab on control

Leaf Analysis



Height & Caliper



Phosphite on Non-Bearing Summary

- Phosphite DOES control scab
- There was not enough scab to spray (Median 2.5)
- Each treatment had more phytotoxicity than control, rate mattered
- There were no differences in leaf nitrogen
- Trees were able to pick up phosphorus
- K-Phite did supply potassium
- There were no differences in tree height or caliper. No horticulture benefit to the trees was observed.



Terra-sorb

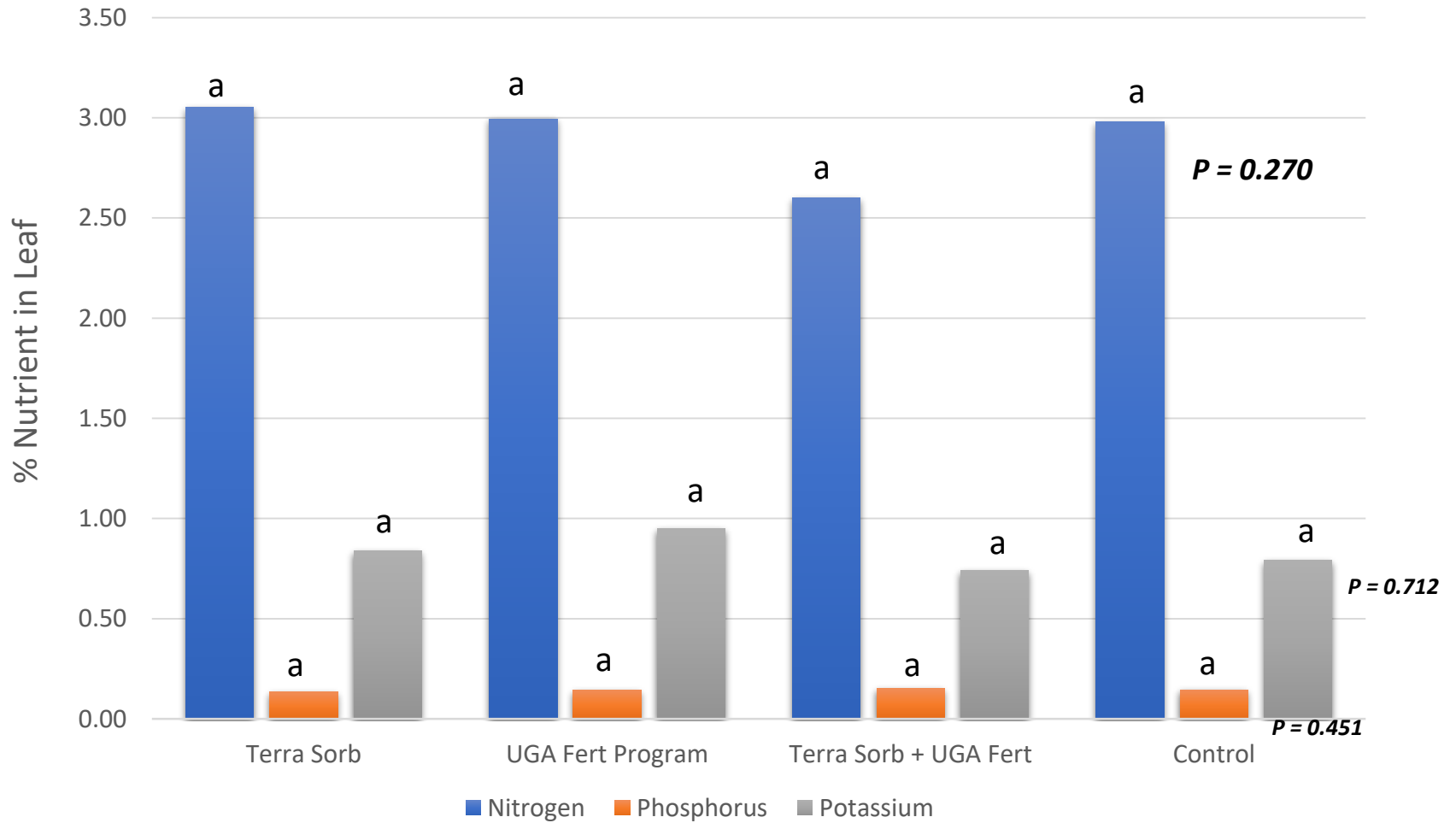


- Developed for landscape and horticulture industry
- Use for tree seedlings, bareroot plants and hydroseeding
- Super absorbent, hydrogel material claims to increase water-holding capacity of soil 150 times its weight in water
- Mix with water and let gel, then dip roots and plant
- A.I. – 93% Potassium Polyacrylate

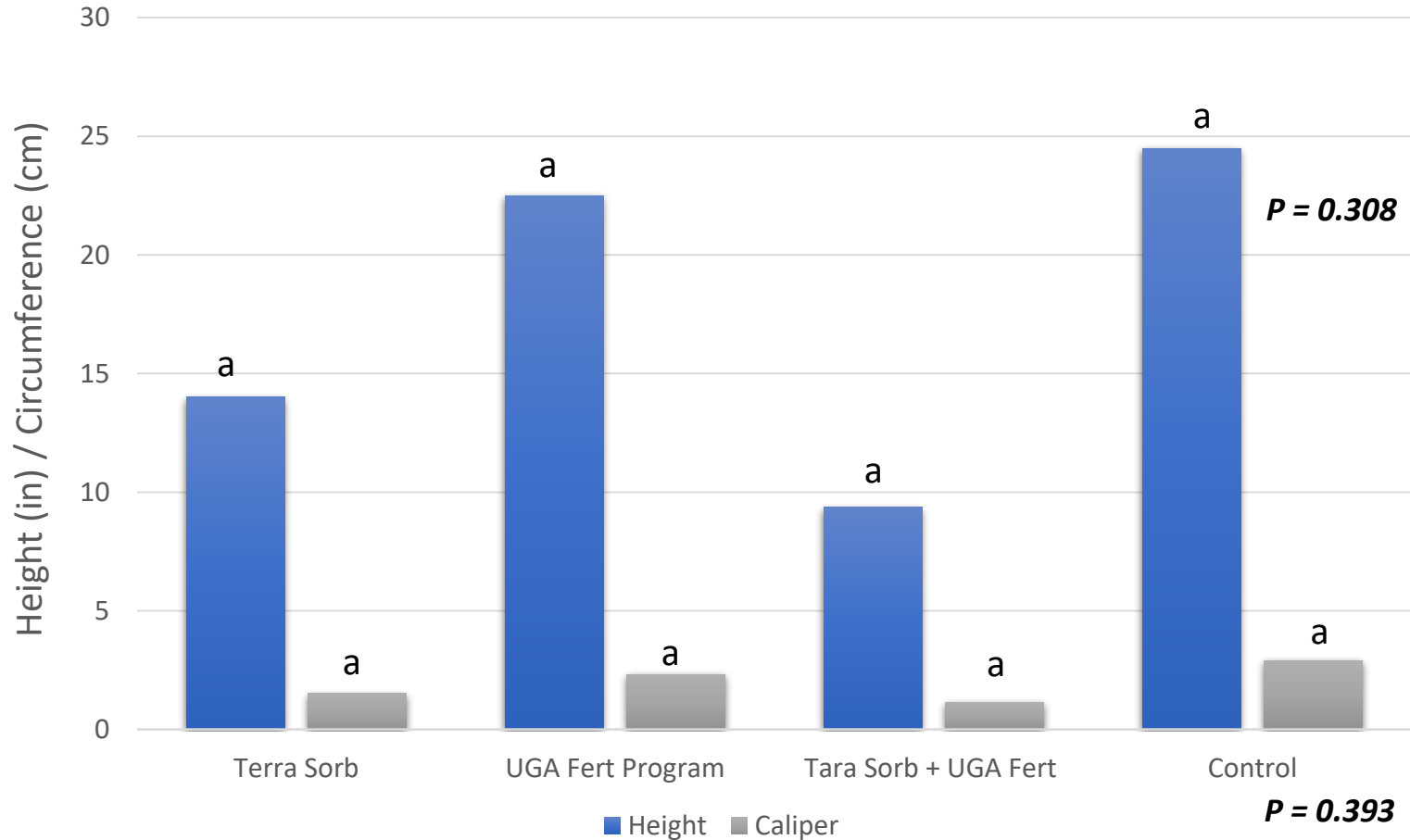


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Leaf Analysis



Difference in Height (In) and Caliper (cm)





Site of 2021 planting of low-input pecan trees for small plot demonstration and long-term scab evaluation at Vidalia Onion Research Farm in Toombs County.

Drenching Insecticide on New Trees

Treatments



	Rate/Acre	Rate/Tree
1. Sivanto	21 oz	1.28 oz
2. Admire	14 oz	0.5 oz
3. Movento	9 oz	0.33 oz
4. Velum Prime	6.8 oz	0.25 oz
5. Control		

No difference in any treatment after products drenched over top of planted trees.

2021: Will replicate same trial by drenching into planting hole to rule out photodegradation of insecticide.

Common issues of newly planted trees



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SOUTHEAST GEORGIA PECAN UPDATE

2020 Pecan Harvest

By Dr. Lanny Wells, UGA Extension Pecan Specialist

Hurricane Sally caused major damage to the Alabama pecan industry in much of Baldwin County. Based on conversation with growers and scientists there, damage is similar to what we suffered in Georgia with Hurricane Michael.

There is much talk about prices this coming year considering competition with Mexico and South Africa, ongoing trade wars between U.S. and China and economic impact of COVID-19. Historically, predicting the pecan market has proven difficult. There is some discussion with interest from China over the last few weeks. Hopefully this will improve prices and moving prices.

Where does the GA crop stand? We have known all season that we have a large crop and it is earlier than normal. We have a good crop throughout the state this year and it appears to be between 10 days and two weeks early. With Cadiz, Creek and Lakota cracking on the Pender Farms in Tifton the first week of September and Excel in Blakely cracking on September 1st, our crop finished early. What does this mean in terms of management?

Irrigation: We can certainly go ahead and cut water back to 40-50% irrigation with kernel filling complete. The most important thing you can do is **water through shuck split**. This process requires water too, and we already see signs of shuck decline in some orchards due to an overloaded crop.

Leaf Retention: With the crop as far as two weeks early, we can forgo any black sprud and mite sprays at this point.

Young Trees: Cut irrigation back to 40% through October or leaf senescing OR turn irrigation off completely with a heavy (1" or more) rain at this point.

Shaking, harvest and cleaning
Our crop is expected to have good quality. Rainfall during kernel filling has been timely and many areas received good rainfall in August and September. Growers have also done a good job managing scab this year. With a large, high quality crop, we need to make sure we get it up and cleaned to maintain quality.

An early crop means early shaking. We had great weather for shaking Purnace last week, and it looks like we have good temperatures this week. Cut off the irrigation 5 days before shaking to avoid cambium injury and also try to shake limbs where possible. For young trees coming into production, it is best to wait until nearly all shucks are open to shake. Do not get too aggressive on these trees.

With the uncertainty in the market, this is not a year I would want to be the first one to sell. It is possible much of our crop will go to cold storage; however, it would be a mistake for the state to carry most of this crop into cold storage because that will likely depress prices again next year. Sell what you need to, and be selective about the prices you accept. Bear in mind that the prices we are currently hearing to expect are \$1.50-\$1.60/lb for Stuart and \$1.50-\$1.90 for Densable. Even Purnace has been in the \$2.30-\$2.35 range. Low quality for any variety will bring even less, particularly for those with less than 40% kernel.

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Questions?

agsawyer@uga.edu

(912) 512-3030



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