

# 'Houma' Pecan

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'Houma' is a new pecan [*Carya illinoensis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch] cultivar released 15 Nov. 1989 by the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA); the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge; and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M Univ., College Station. 'Houma' is being released because of its adequate yield and nut quality attributes, but especially for its superior disease resistance.

## Origin

'Houma', tested as selection 58-4-61, is a progeny from a 1958 cross between 'Desirable' and 'Curtis' (Fig. 1) made by L.D. Romberg at the W.R. Poage Pecan Field Station, Brownwood, Texas. A bud from the resulting seedling was budded onto a mature tree in Summer 1959.

## Description

'Houma' has yielded early and well in Louisiana tests (Boudreaux et al., 1985a, 1985b), producing more weight (in grams) of nuts per tree than 'Desirable' (Table 1) and showing consistency of yield from year to year. Nut size is adequate (Fig. 2), 50% to 55% is kernel. Kernel color and retention of its bright color are outstanding.

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'Houma' is protandrous, with a pollen shed pattern similar to 'Desirable'. It should be well pollenized by, and a good pollinizer of, cultivars commonly grown with 'Desirable'.

General disease resistance of 'Houma' is excellent (Table 2). Scab [*Cladosporium caryigenum* (Ell. et Lang.) Gottwald] and

vein spot (*Gnomonia nerviseda* Cole) diseases have not been observed on this cultivar. In Baton Rouge tests, it produced well in years when scab did major damage to other cultivars. Minor susceptibility to downy spot (*Mycosphaerella caryigena* Demaree and Cole) was noted in Louisiana.

## Availability

Graftwood will be supplied only to nurseries, state universities, and experiment stations in 1991. All requests should be sent to T.E.T. Growers may obtain scionwood or budded trees from nurseries in 1992 and thereafter. The USDA does not have trees for distribution.

## Literature Cited

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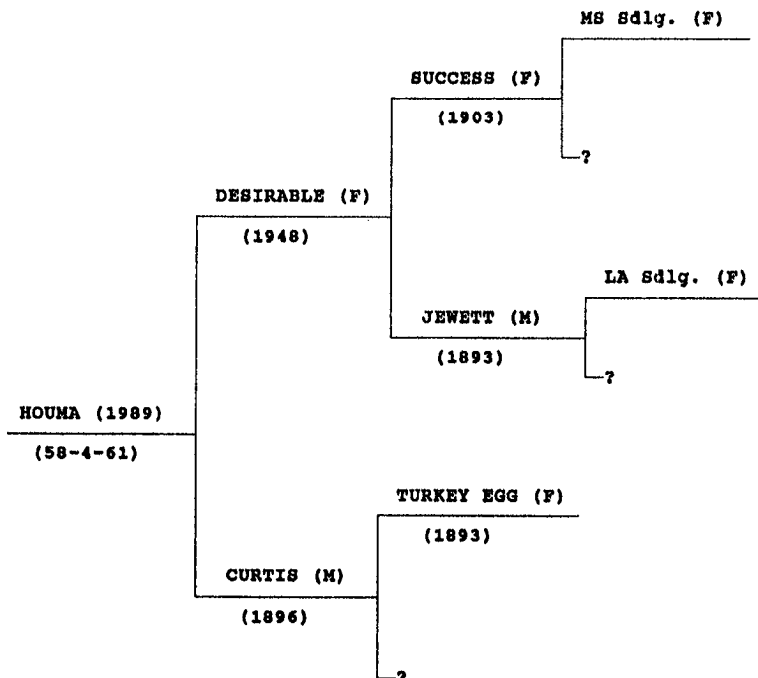


Fig. 1. Pedigree of 'Houma' pecan, including year each cultivar was released. F = female parent and M = male parent.

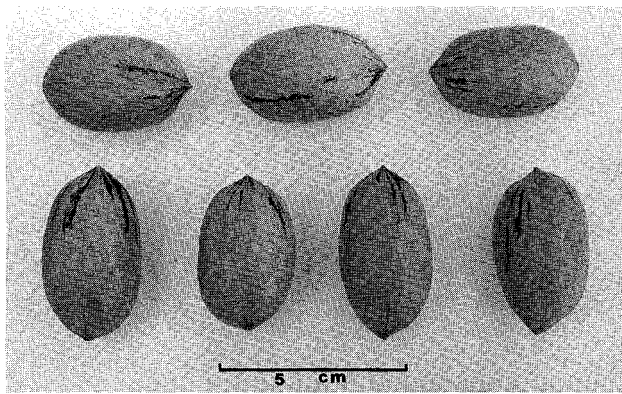


Fig. 2. Nuts of the 'Houma' pecan.

Table 1. Performance of 'Houma' pecan (1981-84) compared with control cultivars at Baton Rouge, La. (planted in 1974).<sup>a</sup>

| Cultivar  | Total yield (kg/tree) | Nut wt (g) | Kernel (%) | Shucksplit date | Kernel color <sup>y</sup> | Scab rating <sup>x</sup> |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Houma     | 42.6                  | 8.2        | 50.5       | 4 Oct.          | 1.2                       | 1                        |
| Desirable | 30.0                  | 10.8       | 50.5       | 1 Oct.          | 1.7                       | 2                        |
| Kiowa     | 24.5 <sup>w</sup>     | 10.5       | 52.3       | 30 Sept.        | 2.0                       | 1                        |

<sup>a</sup>Data based on Boudreaux et al. (1985a, 1985b).

<sup>y</sup>1 = very light; 10 = dark.

<sup>x</sup>1 = no sign of disease; 5 = very susceptible.

<sup>w</sup>Estimated.

Table 2. Disease resistance of 'Houma' pecan compared with control cultivars. All ratings are on a 1 to 5 scale: 1 = no sign of disease; 5 = very severe disease.

| Cultivar  | Scab |      | Downy spot | Leaf scorch | Vein spot |
|-----------|------|------|------------|-------------|-----------|
|           | Nut  | Leaf |            |             |           |
| Houma     | 1.0  | 1.0  | 2.0        | 1.0         | 1.0       |
| Desirable | 2.1  | 2.4  | 1.5        | 1.6         | 1.7       |
| Cheyenne  | 1.6  | 2.0  | 1.6        | 1.5         | 1.1       |
| Pawnee    | 1.8  | 2.8  | 2.0        | 2.0         | 1.0       |
| Wichita   | 3.0  | 3.0  | 2.3        | 1.9         | 1.1       |

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