Introduction

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Walnut (*Juglans regia*), almond (*Prunus dulcis*), hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*), pistachio (*Pistacia vera*), and pecan (*Carya illinoinensis*) represent the major nut crops produced in the United States. Almond, walnut, and pistachio are primarily grown in commercially planted orchards in California using intensive management practices. Commercial plantings of hazelnut are unique to Oregon and are also intensively managed. Pecan is the most widely distributed nut crop in the United States, being commercially produced in 18 states. Cultural systems vary from the low input management of native stands of seedling trees to the intensive management of single cultivar pecan orchards.

Each production system is uniquely different. A wide variety of pests and diseases challenge nut crop farmers to produce an economically viable crop. In addition, environmental and regulatory issues are pointing to a need for alternatives to conventional pest and disease management practices.

Integrated pest management is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties (Flint, 2001).

The five papers presented here are a result of the ASHS Temperate Zone Nut Working Group workshop presented at the 2001 ASHS annual conference in Sacramento, Calif. Each paper describes major pests and current strategies for pest management. Not every pest or disease has a new innovative management technique. Each author has described conventional, newly developed, and in some cases, management techniques still in the research and development phase. The workshop text presents an excellent opportunity to review pest and disease management for the major nut crops produced in the U.S.

Literature cited

Flint, M.L. and P. Gouveia. 2001. IPM in practice: Principles and methods of integrated pest management. Univ. Calif. Statewide Integrated Pest Mgt. Proj. Publ. 3418.

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