



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

Home Pecan Tree Management Calendar

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Many residents and properties in Georgia have a significant number of pecan trees or small backyard orchards commonly known as “backyard pecans.” While pecan trees in commercial orchards are meticulously managed, homeowners encounter challenges in applying the same level of intensive management to their backyard pecans. This guide provides essential tasks specifically designed for the care of these backyard trees.



Figure 1. First-year Pecan Trees. Photo: Andrew Sawyer, UGA Extension.

January/February

General Orchard Upkeep

- Thin overcrowded orchards
- Clean up limbs and debris
- Service and repair equipment

Tree Maintenance

- Prune or train young trees
- Plant trees

Fertility

- Apply lime

Weed & Pest Control

- February: Set ambrosia beetle traps for trees 3 years and younger
 - See UGA Extension publication C 1160, [Granulate Ambrosia Beetle: Biology and Management](#), for information on ambrosia beetles and setting traps

March/April



Figure 2. Catkins (Male Flowers) Come Out in April, Along With New Leaves. Photo: Andrew Sawyer, UGA Extension.

General Orchard Upkeep

- Maintain the orchard as needed

Tree Maintenance

- Prune or train trees



Figure 3. Flowers Emerge With Catkins and Leaves in April. Photo: Andrew Sawyer, UGA Extension.

Fertility

- Apply 12.5 lb of 10-10-10 fertilizer per tree (this is the first of two applications you'll make during the growing season for a total of 25 lb per tree per year)
- Apply 4 lb of zinc sulfate per tree, or according to soil sample results

Weed & Pest Control

- Apply herbicide as needed to reduce weeds
- Scout for [pecan budmoth](#) at budbreak on trees 1 and 2 years old, treat with insecticide

May/June

General Orchard Upkeep

- Maintain the orchard as needed
- Mow the orchard regularly

Tree Maintenance

- First & second nut drop

Fertility

- Apply 12.5 lb of 10-10-10 fertilizer per tree (this is the second and final fertilizer application you'll make during the growing season)

Weeds/Pest

- Drench imidacloprid around the base of mature trees for aphids



Figure 4. The Nut-Sizing Period Goes From June to August. Photo: Andrew Sawyer, UGA Extension.

July/August

General Orchard Upkeep

- Keep the orchard mowed

Tree Maintenance

- Third nut drop

Fertility

- Take and submit leaf tissue samples for analysis
 - Sample 50 middle-pair leaves throughout the orchard between July 7 and August 7

Weed & Pest

- Check traps for [pecan weevil](#) during the first week of August in mature trees
 - If present, apply insecticide to the ground and base of the tree

September/October

General Orchard Upkeep

- Prepare for and start the harvest
- Start early harvest
- Market pecan crop

Weed & Pest

- Apply herbicides to clean up the orchard floor

November/December

General Orchard Upkeep



Figure 5. Shuck Split Occurs in September and October. Photo: Andrew Sawyer, UGA Extension.

- Harvest the crop frequently
- Market pecan crop
- Thin overcrowded orchards
- Clean up limbs and debris
- Service and repair equipment

Tree Maintenance

- December: Site preparation for new plantings

Fertility

- Take soil samples
- December: apply lime and zinc if needed

Additional Resources

UGA Pecans website: <https://pecans.uga.edu/>

UGA Pecan Blog: <https://site.extension.uga.edu/pecan/>