

PUBLICATIONS

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FRUIT AND NUT CROPS RESEARCH IN TEXAS, 1987

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19, 20	Duery Menzies	Pecan

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SUBJECT TOPIC: Soil pH, nutrition, and nematodes from a deep profile in old established peach orchards.

INVESTIGATOR(S): John A. Lipe - TAEX, Fredericksburg
Jerral Johnson - TAEX, College Station
Duery Menzies - TAEX, Fredericksburg

CROP(S): Peach

ABSTRACT:

Objectives:

1. Test for soil related problems affecting tree longevity in established peach orchards.
2. Compare shallow (0-45.7 cm) and deep (45.7-76.2 cm) soil samples for differences in pH nutrition and nematodes.

General Approach:

Soil samples were collected from 6 Gillespie Company Orchard sites in November 1986. The site samples had been in peaches from 10 to 40 years and ranged from sites with excellent tree health to sites with tree shortlife problems.

Each sample was taken as 3 replicate cores from the perimeter of a single tree.

Analysis were run by the Soil's Lab and the Plant Diagnostic Lab at Texas A&M University.

Findings:

Comparisons of pH, mineral nutrition, nematodes and soil texture from all sites and from shallow and deep samples showed no apparent problems or difference that might explain differences in tree longevity.

Heavy rains had fallen a few days prior to sampling and subsurface wetness or saturation was noted to be greater on areas with shortlife problems.

This suggests that more care must be given to selecting and improving the internal drainage of orchard sites.