

Growing Pecans Can Be Rewarding

Dear Plant Doctor: I have a question I would like answered. I planted a pecan tree in my yard over 10 years ago. Soon after (about a year), the tree was run over by a lawn mower and cut off at ground level.

A sprout came out from the trunk and has now made a tree about 15 feet tall. This tree has never bloomed.

Is this tree worthless since it came from a sprout? If so, should I remove it? What are all my options?

Answer: The sprout that emerged is an adventitious shoot generated by the root stock. Seedling pecan or hickory are predominantly used for understock or rootstock in most pecan grafting operations.

Mature seedling pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) trees will often produce good yields but the nuts will often be small in size and of inconsistent quality. Most seedling pecan trees will reach reproductive maturity between 10 and 20 years after planting.

You have several options you should consider before you remove a 10-year-old pecan tree.

The pecan is one uniquely American crop that world markets seem to be unable to satisfy. Pecan trees offer shade, wildlife habitat and delicious nuts.

However, growing pecan trees

THE PLANT DOCTOR

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can be a frustrating experience. Here are a few basic facts that should make pecan culture more fun.

1. Numerous varieties of pecan are available. Because of the unusual pollination habits of the pecan, varieties should be matched for optimum nut production. For example, the cultivar *Cape Fear* produces pollen before the stigma (female flower) is receptive. A single *Cape Fear* pecan tree will not produce a very large nut yield unless another pecan pollinates the female flowers.

The *Stuart* pecan produces a receptive female flower at the same time *Cape Fear* has viable pollen. Also, *Stuart* produces viable pollen at roughly the same time as *Cape Fear* female flowers are receptive. In a good year the two cultivars cross pollinate each other's flowers.

The take-home message is to plant compatible pecan varieties.

Extension publication *Pollination Requirements of Pecan Varieties*, Leaflet No. 350, describes the best pairing of varieties for pollination purposes.

2. All pecan cultivars must be grafted to either seedling rootstock or hickory rootstock. From personal experience, I can tell you grafting pecans is very, very difficult. One option you have is to graft a desirable variety on to the sprout you currently have growing.

Commercial pecan orchards graft new varieties on old trees through a process known as "topworking". I would recommend you consult with local nurserymen to locate an individual that is expert in grafting and have them topwork your tree.

3. High yield, early nut production for the home gardener can only be achieved if soil fertility and pests are controlled. Improper or inadequate fertilization is often the cause of poor nut yields. Pick up a copy of *Pecan Management Around the Home*, Horticultural Information Leaflet No. 351, at the county cooperative extension office.

I am sending you some of the previously mentioned literature about pecan culture. Hope this helps you decide how to handle your tree.

Send your gardening questions to *The Plant Doctor*, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.

Brunswick County Artists' Work To Be Focus Of Art Guild Festival

Work by Brunswick County artists and crafters will be featured at the Oak Island Art Guild's second annual arts and crafts festival Saturday, Aug. 31.

The festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Middleton Park, Long Beach, with a Sept. 1 rain day, said Phyllis Riley, organizer.

"It will be a fun day in the park for all," she predicted.

Some national-known artists will be among the exhibitors, including Ortrud Tyler, known for her abstracts and marsh scenes; Ervin Webb, known for her tropical flowers, birds and portraits; Ellen and Arthur Jones, watercolors; and Jean Jones, seascapes.

The guild's 70 members will exhibit and demonstrate their artistic talents.

Entertainment will include a Dixieland style jazz band and a folk singer.

Also, teen-age author Alicia

Conn of Long Beach will be at the fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. autographing copies of her book, *Till Caswell Fell*.

Foods will be available from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Eastern Star, Senior Citizens of Long Beach

and St. Philip's Episcopal Women.

"There is so much talent in Brunswick County," said Ms. Riley, "that this is an opportunity to meet the artists and craftsmen, see good art and buy at affordable prices."



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Pilot Club Inducts Members, Elects Officers

The Pilot Club of the South Brunswick Islands inducted four new members and elected officers for 1991-92 at its Aug. 20 meeting in Calabash. Pictured in the top photo (from left) are new members Helen Laugisch, Bonnie Adams, Mary Harrelson and Gina Britton. Shown below (from left) are new officers Nellie Westbrook, president; Barbara Russ, director; Sue Chapman, director; Frances Warner, recording secretary; Helen Laugisch, vice president; Wendy Milazzo, treasurer; Martha Jo Hall, president-elect; and Faye Allen, corresponding secretary. Director Rita Canfield is not pictured.



REWARD

To the person(s) who stole a black briefcase from my car at Shalotte Point. As you now know, there was not anything of value in it. Would you kindly return it. The paperwork and books and pictures are needed by me to finish my EMT and firefighter courses. Return it, no questions asked.

Michael R. Smith
754-6276

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Shanta Ritannica Vaught

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MT. ZION—Longwood; CAROLYN GAUSE—Greensboro; CHERYL WARD—Little River, SC; TIMMY STANLEY—Gastonia; MERDIE PRINK—Calabash; TIM RANDALL—Greensboro; BERTA RANDALL—Thomasboro; MANT LETHA—stationed in Korea; MARGIE PRIDGEN—Mullins, SC; GRANDMA and the rest of my family and friends, to ANTHONY and my MOMMIE who always believed that I was a winner.

Thank you all for everything.
Shanta R. Vaught

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