

Georgia Pecans



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Characteristics of Pecan

- Cross pollinated crop
- Similar to people
 - Takes two to make a seed
 - Seedlings are different from the parent and each other



Seedling Vs. Cultivar

- Pecans may be either grafted cultivars or seedlings.
- Cultivar = Variety



Seedling trees have diverse nut size, nut shape, and kernel quality.

Quality factors of pecan

- Nut Size
 - Generally sold as # nuts per pound
 - Large – 55 or less nuts per pound
 - Medium – 55-70 nuts per pound
 - Small – 71 or more nuts per pound
- Gram Weight
 - Large 8+ grams
 - Medium 6.5 – 8.0 grams
 - Small < 6.5 grams

Quality factors of pecan

- $\% \text{ Kernel} = (\text{kernel weight} / \text{nut weight}) \times 100$
 - The kernel is the useful part, so the higher the percentage kernel the more valuable the nut.
 - Thicker shells reduce percent kernel.
 - Large nuts should have a higher percent kernel than small nuts.
 - Each cultivar has a characteristic percent kernel.
 - Higher percent kernel = better developed kernel = more oil and flavor.



- High % kernel

- Medium % kernel

- Undeveloped kernels

Quality factors of pecan

- Kernel Color
 - Light colored kernels are generally favored.
 - Kernels darken as they age.
 - Different cultivars have different kernel colors.
 - Some cultivars have undesirable spots, or dark veins.

Kernel Color Variation



Color Defects

Kernel Spotting



Dark Veins



Prominent Georgia Cultivars

- ‘Desirable’
 - Georgia’s leading cultivar.
 - Large size and high quality.
 - Less alternate bearing.
 - Disease susceptible.



48 nuts / pound
51 % kernel

Prominent Georgia Cultivars

- ‘Stuart’
 - Widely planted cultivar.
 - Large size.
 - Early harvest date.



55 nuts / pound
47 % kernel

Prominent Georgia Cultivars

- ‘Sumner’
 - Large size and good quality.
 - Late harvest date.
 - Disease resistant.
 - Becoming more popular.



56 nuts / pound
52 % kernel

Prominent Georgia Cultivars

- ‘Cape Fear’
 - Medium size.
 - Variable quality.
 - Golden kernel color.
 - Alternate bears.



55 nuts / pound
51 % kernel

Prominent Georgia Cultivars

- ‘Pawnee’
 - Very early harvest date.
 - Large size.
 - Good percent kernel.
 - Can have color defects (spotting and dark veins).
 - Disease susceptible.



56 nuts / pound
54 % kernel

Prominent Georgia Cultivars

- ‘Elliot’
 - Small nut size.
 - Alternate bearing.
 - Round kernel.
 - Oily, high-quality kernel.
 - Scab resistant.



77 nuts / pound
51 % kernel

Questions?

