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#### **Characteristics of Pecan**

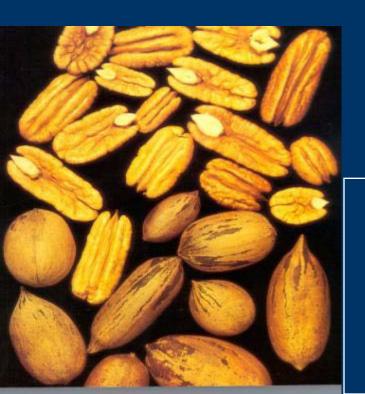
- Cross pollinated crop
- Similar to people
  - Takes two to make a seed
  - Seedlings are different from the parent and each other



# 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

• % Kernel = (kernel weight / nut weight) X 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



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



48 nuts / pound 51 % kernel

- 'Stuart'
  - Widely planted cultivar.
  - Large size.
  - Early harvest date.



55 nuts / pound 47 % kernel

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



56 nuts / pound 52 % kernel

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



55 nuts / pound 51 % kernel

- '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

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



77 nuts / pound 51 % kernel

#### Questions?

