

REMOTE SENSING OF PECANS

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The pecan, *Carya illinoensis* (Wang.) K. Koch, occupies a unique position among agricultural plants in the United States for three primary reasons. 1) The pecan is still undergoing domestication and the majority of the germ plasm present today exists as semidomesticated wild trees. 2) The pecan nuts produced by wild trees are commercially valuable and presently dominate the market in Texas. 3) The primary pest complex associated with pecan in the U.S. is composed exclusively of organisms which have presumably coevolved with pecan for at least thousands of years.

The pecan represents a natural resource, as well as a commodity. The effective utilization of this resource can be vastly aided by the development of a reliable data base, which can be used as a source of information on which to base management decisions.

The aboriginal distribution of pecan is shown in Fig. 1 (from



Fig. 1. Aboriginal distribution of pecan (from Little 1971).

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