2015 - 2016 Jefferson County

18th Annual Persimmon Seed Weather Theory

For eighteen years the Jefferson County Extension office has collected and checked local persimmon seeds to compare winter weather theories with actual weather events for the county. So far the persimmon seeds have been accurate (in theory) fourteen out of eighteen years. This year, for added weather forecasting, we collected persimmon seeds from two different parts of the county - west central and north central - to see if there would be different forecasts. Oddly enough the seeds and fruit from the two areas were different, and the outcome was different with the quantity of predictors in the seeds. Here are the results of this year’s annual persimmon seed weather theory for Jefferson County:

Seventeen seeds were harvested from groups provided to us -

- Persimmon seeds from the Dittmer (8) area (west central in the county) and House Springs (9) area (north central in the county) seeds opened contained 13 "spoons" and 4 "knives"

Winter weather in both of these areas tend to be similar in precipitation and accumulation. According to the seeds, this year we will be watching for more wet snow with some frigid temps in the north and western parts of the county. Let’s see if our weather matches our local seeds predictors . . .

Key from The Old Farmer’s Almanac: According to folklore, you can predict the weather with a persimmon seed. Here’s how to do it: Cut open a persimmon seed. (Find persimmon fruit in your supermarket. It should be locally-grown to reflect your weather.)

Look at the shape of the kernel inside.

- If the kernel is spoon-shaped, lots of heavy, wet snow will fall. Spoon = shovel!
- If it is fork-shaped, you can expect powdery, light snow and a mild winter.
- If the kernel is knife-shaped, expect to be "cut" by icy, cutting winds.

It's best to use ripe seeds.