

# LOUISIANA PLANT PATHOLOGY

DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT SERIES

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## Leaf Smut of Rice

*Entyloma oryzae* Syd. and P. Syd.

Leaf smut, caused by the fungus *Entyloma oryzae*, is a widely distributed, but somewhat minor, disease of rice.

The fungus produces slightly raised, angular, black spots (sori) on both sides of the leaves (Figure 1). Although rare, it also can produce spots on leaf sheaths. The black spots are about 0.5 to 5.0 millimeters long and 0.5 to 1.5 millimeters wide.

Many spots can be found on the same leaf, but the spots remain distinct from each other. The epidermis

breaks open when wet and releases the black spores. Heavily infected leaves turn yellow, and the leaf tips die and turn gray (Figure 2).

The fungus is spread by airborne spores and overwinters on diseased leaf debris in soil. Leaf smut occurs late in the growing season and causes little loss. The disease is favored by high nitrogen rates. Control measures are not recommended.



Figure 1. Typical symptoms of leaf smut



Figure 2. Severe late-season leaf smut symptoms

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