

LOUISIANA PLANT PATHOLOGY

DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT SERIES

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Leaf Scald of Rice

Microdochium oryzae (Hashioka and Yokogi) Samuels and I.C. Hallett

Rhynchosporium oryzae Hashioka and Yokogi

Leaf scald, caused by *Microdochium oryzae*, is present in the southern rice-growing areas of the United States and in Louisiana each year.

The disease affects leaves, panicles and seedlings, and its pathogen is seed-borne and survives between crops on infected seeds. The disease usually occurs on maturing leaves. Lesions start on leaf tips or from the edges of leaf blades (Figure 1). The lesions develop a chevron pattern of light (tan) and darker reddish-brown areas (Figure 2). The leading edge of the lesion usually is yellow to gold. Fields look yellow or gold from a distance. Lesions from the edges of leaf blades have an indistinct, mottled pattern. Affected leaves dry and turn straw colored and appear scalded (Figure 3).

Panicle infestations cause a uniform light to dark, reddish-brown discoloration of the florets of developing grain. The disease, which develops late in the season, can cause sterility or abortion of developing kernels. Control measures are not recommended, but foliar fungicides used to manage other diseases have activity against this disease.

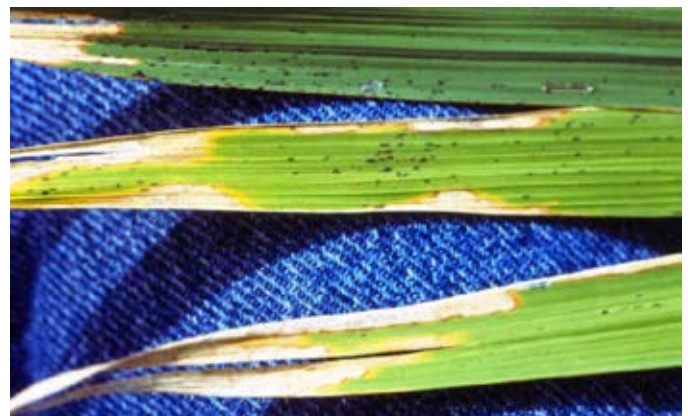


Figure 1. Early leaf scald symptoms



Figure 2. Typical leaf scald chevrons



Figure 3. Late-season leaf scald symptoms

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