

LOUISIANA PLANT PATHOLOGY

DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT SERIES

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Stackburn of Rice (*Alternaria* leaf spot)

Alternaria padwickii (Ganguly) M.B. Ellis

Stackburn or *Alternaria* leaf spot is caused by the fungal pathogen *Alternaria padwickii*. It is common on rice around the world.

The disease is present in all rice fields in Louisiana. Only occasional incidences are observed, but the disease may be more severe in restricted areas of a field.

The spots caused by the disease typically are large (0.5 to 1 centimeter in diameter), oval or circular, with a dark brown margin or a ring around the spot (Figure 1). The center of the spot is initially tan and eventually becomes white or nearly white. Mature spots have small, dark or black dots in the center (Figure 2). These are sclerotia of the fungus.

This disease often is confused with leaf blast and herbicide damage. Grain or seeds affected by the disease have tan to white spots with a wide, dark brown border. The disease causes discoloration of kernels. It also causes the kernels to stop developing and grains to be shriveled.

This fungus is the most common seed-borne fungus in Louisiana and may cause seedling blight. It is more common on panicles and grain than on leaves in Louisiana. The disease obtained its name from grain rotting in bins associated with high moisture and this fungus.

No specific control recommendations are available, but seed-protectant fungicides will help reduce the seedling blight caused by this pathogen and will reduce the number of spores available to cause leaf infections.

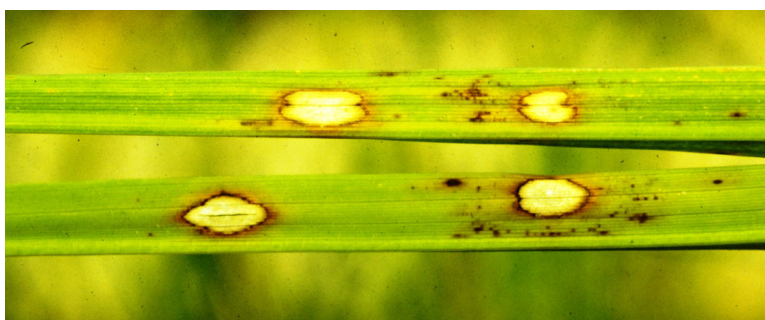


Figure 1. *Alternaria* leaf spot symptoms

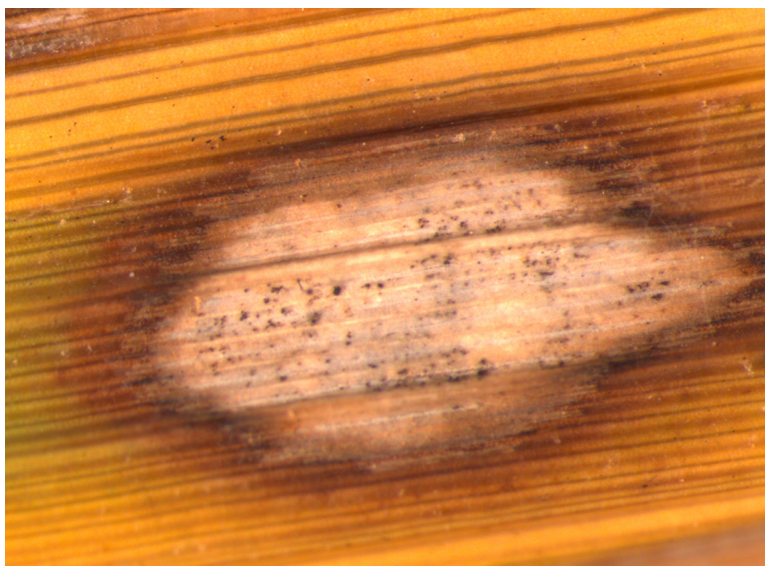


Figure 2. Sclerotia imbedded in leaf spot tissue

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