

LOUISIANA PLANT PATHOLOGY

DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT SERIES

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White Tip of Rice

Aphelenchoides besseyi Christie

This disease is caused by the nematode *Aphelenchoides besseyi*.

Characteristic symptoms appear after tillering and include the yellowing of leaf tips with white areas in upper portions of the leaf blade (Figure 1), stunting of affected plants, twisting or distortion of the flag leaf and distortion and discoloration of panicles and florets. Leaf tips change from green to yellow and eventually to white. The tip withers above the white area, becoming brown or tan and tattered (Figure 2).

Resistant varieties may show few symptoms and still have yield loss. The nematode infects the developing grain and is seed-borne. This disease is present endemically in Louisiana but is considered a minor rice disease.

Fumigation of seeds in storage will reduce the nematode population. No other specific control measures are recommended.



Figure 1. Early symptoms of white tip



Figure 2. Late-season symptoms of white tip

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