LOUISIANA PLANT PATHOLOGY
DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT SERIES
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Black Kernel of Rice

Curvularia lunata (Wakk.) Boedijn (teleomorph: *Cochiobolus lunatus* R.R. Nelson and Haasis)

The fungus *Curvularia lunata* causes black kernel of rice. The fungus causes severe grain discoloration (Figure 1), and after milling, the kernels appear black.

The fungal spores (Figure 2) are produced on the surface of the hulls (Figure 3) rather than oozing out between the hulls like kernel smut. When infections are heavy, the fungus can cause seedling blights or weakened seedlings. Warm weather and high humidity favor disease development.

This disease is rarely severe enough that management practices are recommended. Seed treatments to manage other diseases should reduce seedling damage. No other management measures are warranted.

Figure 1. Black kernel symptoms and signs

Figure 2. *Curvularia lunata* spores

Figure 3. Close-up of spores produced on hulls

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