

LOUISIANA PLANT PATHOLOGY

DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT SERIES

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Grain Spotting and Pecky Rice

Damage by many fungi including *Cochliobolus miyabeanus* (Ito and Kuribayashi) Drechs. Ex Dastur, *Curvularia* spp., *Fusarium* spp., *Microdochium oryzae* (Hashioka and Yokogi) Samuels and I.C. Halett, *Sarocladium oryzae* (Sawada) W. Gams and D. Hawksworth and other fungi

Many fungi infect developing grain and cause spots and discoloration on the hulls or kernels. Damage by the rice stink bug, *Oebalus pugnax* F., also causes discoloration of the kernel (Figure 1).

Kernels discolored by fungal infections or insect damage commonly are called pecky rice or peck. With the disorder, the endosperm of the grain shows what can range from small areas to being almost totally rotten (Figure 2).

This complex disorder involves many fungi (Figure 3), the white-tip nematode and insect damage. High winds at the early heading stage may cause similar symptoms. Heading applications of stink bug insecticides and fungicides targeted at other more important diseases will reduce peck.



Figure 1. Rice stink bug feeding



Figure 2. Pecky rice



Figure 3. Fungi growing from pecky rice

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