



Above is a photograph of one of our verification fields that is proving to be a real challenge. The field had been flooded all winter and the farmer wanted to water seed directly into this flood and try to pinpoint flood it. When the ducks finally left he flew 140 lbs of Cheniere seed per acre into the field, waited 24 hours and drained it. That is when the trouble started.

Once the field was drained we discovered ducksalad and redstem already up and growing and a field much too undulating to pinpoint flood. Dry, windy conditions forced us to flush and prevented herbicide application. Flushing kept enough water on the field to entice poule d'eau (coots) to stay. The area in the foreground was cleaned up by the birds. In the meantime sprangletop germinated and the farmer re-seeded the bird damaged areas. So now we have 2 ages of rice and 3 tough weeds.

I made several phone calls to other weed control folks trying to figure out which way to go. We finally decided to use Basagran plus propanil where rice was re-seeded and RebelEX on the rest of the field. I am not optimistic about either treatment and expect to have to follow up with something else later. We could not use RebelEX on the very young rice and felt the Basagran propanil mix was safer, but inferior in its ability to take out these weeds at this size.

In retrospect, it would have been much better to drain the field, apply a burndown herbicide, then flood and water seed. The additional cost of flooding would have been saved in herbicide costs if things go as expected. As Dr. Dearl Sanders often said, "If you have enough money we can kill anything in a rice field." There might be a couple of exceptions, but I think you get the message.

Last week I wrote about and showed photographs of a billbug. This week more of them were found by Dr. Hummel. At right is the type of injury we found, but we could not find the insects. Later Dr. Hummel went to the same field, but a different area and found the bugs. I have been referring to a large billbug as the Rice Levee Billbug, but I must have imagined the name or at least cannot find a reference to it. I called the person I thought had given the name to me years ago and he said it was the Cat-tail Billbug which can be found in the literature. A USDA farmers bulletin published in **1919** describes this one, the Destructive Billbug (*Sphenophorus destructor*) and several other species including the Cat-tail Billbug and Tule Billbug. Now we will have to collect the other billbug and get a positive identification of it. I ran across my records of the first time former county agent Eddie Eskew and I found it in Jeff Davis parish; it was in May of 2005.



The weed shown at left is becoming more common and perhaps more difficult to control in some fields. It is dayflower. Pre-emerge herbicides labeled for use in rice have a difficult time with it because of its relatively large seed size. We have several good post emergence herbicide options if you follow the herbicide application with establishment of permanent flood.

In this field part of it had been sprayed with 0.5 ounces of Permit and an adjacent part with 3.2 ounces of League. We were mainly interested in any residual control of jointvetch (lots of that out there too). Dr. Webster said a better comparison would have been 1.0 ounce of Permit vs 4.0 ounces of League. We'll continue to monitor the field and let you know what we observe.

Yesterday county agent Stuart Gauthier and I were investigating a problem in a rice field when we saw this weed in an irrigation canal. The farmer said he thought it was Giant Salvinia. Thankfully it is not. It is common Salvinia which has been around a lot longer than Giant Salvinia an invasive species that it looked like we might have under control, but is now found all over the state. The two species are easy to separate if magnification is used to look at the hairs on the upper surface of the leaf. In common Salvinia the hairs separate at the tip like fireworks making a starburst, while the hairs of Giant Salvinia are united at the tip producing an eggbeater shape. If you notice this weed and it appears to be surviving herbicide applications give us a call so we can determine if it is Giant or common Salvinia. In this case we noted the canal had been sprayed which caused some concern about the problem we saw in the adjacent rice field. We do not know if it is drift and are following up.



In the photograph below are large areas of open water that a week ago had plants in them and should look like the rest of the field. In some respects the pattern looks like a drift pattern, but we could not find any evidence of adjacent areas being sprayed. It is a Cleafield variety so that eliminates Newpath drift. To complicate things our conductivity meter showed 1000 ppm total dissolved salts. The farmer uses surface water which had been even saltier prior to the rain we got last week. We suggested running fresh water through the field if he can get fresh water.

