

Field Notes  
May 20, 2011  
Johnny Saichuk



At right and below are photographs of leaf blast on CL261. The comments that follow are from Dr. Clayton Hollier.

Three points of interest need to be mentioned. First, warm days followed by cool nights are predisposing conditions to blast development. Second, rice growing along a tree line will maintain dew longer than rice grown in the open part of the field. The longer dew period favors blast development. Third, the rice has moved out of one of the most susceptible stages for blast. The blast that has developed did so over the last three weeks or so.

As the nighttime temperatures increase I suspect there will be less blast development and less of a need to apply a fungicide. Additionally, the current drought will slow blast development too.







Keith Fontenot sent these two photographs to me. I have seen this type of injury before especially in the situation here. On the left just out of the photograph is a ryegrass pasture that has matured and dried up. On the right is rice under flood – the only green plants around. So chinch bugs have migrated across the road and into the rice. Keith said the ground was full of them and the plants below show the level of infestation on them. In this picture the firing is from the heavy concentration of chinch bugs on the edge. As you progress into the field the numbers eventually drop it is just a question of how long can you tolerate them. In a case like this I would recommend treating the perimeters of the field with an appropriate insecticide. Most of the pyrethroids are labeled for chinch bug control in rice.

It looks like someone took a large pepper shaker and seasoned these rice plants with chinch bugs. Under these circumstances it is easy to diagnose and to treat. When they are feeding on the roots in dry soil and are difficult to both find and control the problem is more serious.





At far left is a rice leaf that appears to have some disease. In this case I think this is associated with cold temperatures. Notice the grayish-green color of the leaf in the area where the spots occur. The spots are similar to the type that develops when cold temperatures induce zinc deficiency. I have seen this for many years every time it is cold. Similar spots might be brown spot which makes this confusing in the field.

At near left is a cluster of stink bug eggs. They are not of the rice stink bug, but I do not know which one they belong to. If they hatch I might be able to find out.

At right are two corn leaves heavily speckled from herbicide injury. This one is easy because the corn is next to one of our verification fields and belongs to the rice farmer. He applied propanil by ground and hit a few plants on the edge of the field. It was a good opportunity to take a few pictures to demonstrate the similarity of this injury to gramoxone injury on corn. If all that was available to examine was a couple of leaves or just a photograph it would appear to be gramoxone injury. This points to the need to fully investigate the source of injury before making an erroneous call. It puts a lot of pressure on weed scientists when someone sends in a couple of leaves and wants to know what caused the problem. I would not want to have to separate gramoxone from propanil based on this photograph.







The next series of photographs do not have anything to do with rice. However the significance of the Mississippi River flooding was worth the time to show these to you. At left is the gauge at the Old River structure last week and at right this week. Some of the other gauges were completely submerged.

If you pull up last week's issue you will see the difference between the water level at the medical facility in Vidalia between one week and the next.

The photographs on the next page were taken at Blackhawk Farm. Most of the visible deer were does; the bucks were in the tree line behind them. It was high and dry last week. They really like soybeans.



