

Below are a couple of photographs of brown spot on Jazzman 2. It is somewhat surprising since it is rated moderately resistant to brown spot, however this disease is often associated with stress especially nutrient stress or deficiency. I do not know all of the particulars in this case. The main point is to compare these spots to those of blast shown in an earlier edition of Field Notes. These spots are much more circular than the elliptic spots of leaf blast.



At right is a photograph of recently oviposited rice stink bug eggs. We know they are rice stink bug eggs because of their size and the characteristic two row arrangement. We know they have been recently laid because of their color. As they mature they will change colors becoming pink or red just before hatching. Last week was the first week we started to pick up stink bugs in significant numbers. This cluster was found in Madison parish. In the south they are ahead so keep an eye out for them.



This week we received several calls about the same symptom – white heads or more correctly white spikelets. The most common variety on which it was noted was CL111, but we also saw it on Cheniere. The common denominator is the stage of growth; in every case it was beginning to head.

Up close the grains appear to have been chewed on by something. In some cases there may have been some insect feeding, but this does not account for all of the blank kernels.

We really do not know the cause. The floral organs (pistil and stamens) are present. There is no obvious sign of bacterial panicle blight. I suspect the injury occurred when the plants were at panicle differentiation or earlier. That might have been when we experienced near record low temperatures in the middle of May. The problem is too widespread to be accounted for by insect damage and does not fit any disease.



Another problem brought in is shown at right. I looked through my photograph files and found the same symptom among the unidentified problems. I recall visiting with Dr. Groth about this problem sometime in the past. At that time he attributed it to some environmental cause. In this case it is on Jupiter and the farmer said this happens on Jupiter every time he grows it. It shows up after green ring (internode elongation). The spots are most prevalent on lower leaves. Next week I hope to sample some leaves taking a spotted leaf and a clean leaf from the same plant with a total of about 50 plants to be sampled. We will then have a nutrient analysis performed with hope that it will at least give us a hint of what might be going on. The problem may not reduce yield, but it sure looks ugly.



Every year I am asked about leaves that show this “dimple” or narrowing of the leaf margins just below the leaf tip. This is very common and does not indicate anything is wrong. It occurs when the affected leaf is trying to emerge from the collar of the leaf above it and for some reason the collar is very tight. I have never paid enough attention to notice if it is cold or hot prior to seeing them in the field. It is quite normal.

When I started in this business no one even noticed this. Now more growers are paying more attention to their fields and making observations that pique their curiosity. That is a good thing; I’m glad to see it.

