

LOUISIANA PLANT PATHOLOGY

DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT SERIES



Sheath Spot of Rice

Rhizoctonia oryzae Ryker and Gooch

Rice sheath spot is caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia oryzae*. The disease resembles sheath blight but usually is less severe and has dark brown lesion borders.

The lesions produced by *R. oryzae* are found on sheaths midway up the tiller or on leaf blades (Figure 1). Lesions are oval, 0.5 to 2 centimeters long and 0.5 to 1 centimeter wide. The center is pale green, cream or white with a broad, dark reddish-brown margin (Figure 2). Lesions are separated on the sheath or blade and do not form the large, continuous lesions often found with sheath blight.

The pathogen attacks and weakens the culm on very susceptible varieties. The weakened culm lodges or breaks over at the point where it was infected. Lodging caused by sheath spot usually occurs midway up the culm.

This disease is favored by high nitrogen levels but usually is minor on Louisiana rice. No control practices are recommended.



Figure 1. Sheath spot symptoms



Figure 2. Sheath spot with dark brown borders

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