

Field Notes
June 19, 2009
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The photograph at right is of a CL151 leaf we collected in our verification field in Vermilion parish. Dr. Groth checked it out and said it is Narrow Brown Leaf Spot caused by *Cercospora janseana*. This is the same disease that was manifested as the net blotch form a couple of years ago that devastated much of the crop and caused a major shift in fungicide use. It is also a good indicator that even though it is hot and dry right now, the fungus is out there and fungicides applied as a preventative may be a good investment.

The photograph below illustrates a common herbicide application problem. The power line prevented the aerial applicator from getting in close and the soybeans on the other side of the road only added to the complication. This is the same field that had .25 ounce of Regiment applied prior to a flush then Clincher after permanent flood.





The two photographs on this page were taken in a field in St. Landry parish earlier this week. What you cannot see in the picture is the riser out of view in the lower right side of the top photograph. If you could you would get a good hint at the problem. There is a large amount of iron deposited around the riser and on the leaves of the plants shown at right. Increasingly I am running across similar problems.

As distance increases from the riser the problem diminishes. The individual plant at right shows nutrient deficiency symptoms. Unfortunately, I did not take the time to collect leaves and send them into the lab. The leaves exhibit symptoms of several different nutrients. Without an analysis it is only speculation as to which one is involved. I have even seen similar symptoms from Newpath, but this is a Clearfield variety.



Yesterday Dr. Groth informed us of a change in the Stratego label. The change reads, “Neck Blast Control – Apply Stratego fungicide at late boot followed by Stratego fungicide at heading or Gem at 60% to 90% heading. It also states, “Do not apply within 35 days of harvest”.

I am not sure what the phrase “at heading” means. I suppose it is open to some interpretation, but appears to give us a little latitude with Stratego.

In our verification fields where we anticipate a problem with blast we will use either Stratego or Gem in the mix. If we are also concerned about *Cercospora* we will include propiconazole either as Stratego or our own mix. Where sheath blight is the predominant problem we’ll probably use Quadris or Quilt. Where all three diseases are likely to cause problems we’ll probably use Stratego plus a little Quadris. In that way we will take advantage of the strength of Gem toward blast, Quadris toward sheath blight and propiconazole toward *Cercospora*.

The heat and dry air has kept diseases in check to some degree, but we are still finding new lesions of all of them each week. The good thing is most disease has not progressed at the rate it would have if we were getting our usual afternoon thundershowers.

I now have had three cases where significant rice injury occurred when Regiment was applied following a load of Newpath. One field was the Neptune field I showed in the last two issues and the other two were Jupiter. I do not know if the medium grain varieties are coincidence or part of the problem. Dr. Webster suspects the special surfactants being used with Regiment (and other herbicides as well) are cleaning the tanks and booms of all Newpath residue that might be clinging to the walls of the equipment. At this point it is only a theory, but it sounds good to me and it offers an explanation for a couple of cases we had a few years ago that we could not explain. One was a field that was sprayed with Clincher that subsequently died. The symptoms were of Newpath injury. The previous load had been glyphosate. The farmer watched the applicator neutralize and rinse the spray rig before applying Clincher.

The only comparison I can think of is tomato sauce residue on plastic containers. There is a new detergent on the market designed specifically to solve this problem. The word surfactant is a concoction of three words – **surface active agent**. The function of dishwashing detergent is to help water remove oil. Water and oil are not miscible. The surfactant properties of the detergent allow water and oil to mix, not form a true solution, just a mixture that can be removed. If one herbicide adheres to booms and tanks tightly and a surfactant with exactly the right properties is added to the tank it might become part of the tank mix that is then applied to the field. In theory it could cling to the equipment until the proper “detergent” is added. This could be the next load or several loads later. It is something to think about.

The two photographs on the next page were sent to me by county agent Keith Fontenot. They are of turtle damage in rice. We see this every year especially in association with crawfish culture where turtles have become a common nuisance. Interestingly, the agent also noticed several adult rice water weevils on the chewed ends of the stalks. Makes us wonder if the damaged tissue acts as an attractant to the weevils.

