



Above are two photographs that represent bad news. They both are of leaf blast in CL151. Last year one case of severe leaf blast in CL151 was reported, but it was in a field that had remained drained until nearly internode elongation (green ring). That was an environment highly favorable to blast development. In this instance the field has been flooded for several weeks without water loss. The area of blast was a small one at one end of the field where nitrogen fertilizer had been overlapped and the stand was thick. Even with the favorable environment for blast development this is enough to be concerned about.

If you have any CL151 keep an eye on it. Dr. Groth's research indicates Gem is the best fungicide for blast. Most of the Gem sold in the past few years has been in the form of Stratego which is a pre-mix of Gem and propiconazole (Tilt and others). Quadris has proven to be a little better than Gem on sheath blight. Quilt is the pre-mix of Quadris and propiconazole.

As bad as leaf blast looks the economic damage comes later when it attacks the flag leaf or the peduncle (the stalk that supports the panicle) or the panicle itself. Leaf blast is a good indicator of the other possibilities; however, the absence of leaf blast does not mean you will not have blast.

This morning we were called to a field in Evangeline parish by county agent Keith Fontenot. The field was showing the symptoms in the photograph at right. Areas of the field were stunted, plants were not tillering and leaves were very erect, all symptoms of phosphorus deficiency. The variety is CL151 which had been water seeded then drained. The field had only been flooded about a week, but the problem had been there before flooding. 60 pounds of P_2O_5 had been applied pre-plant. The herbicide program had been an application of 4 ounces of Newpath plus 2 quarts of Superwham on the first round. The second application of Newpath included 2.5 ounces of Grasp plus .33 ounces of Permit plus 2 ounces of Karate. This was followed by 200 pounds of urea and establishment of the permanent flood.

We found poor root systems in the plants in the affected areas and concluded the phosphorus deficiency was a consequence of the damage to the root system.

So what caused the root system damage? Even though we have seen root pruning from Grasp that did not appear to be the case here. The county agent had been suspicious of something, but did not reveal it. He asked to borrow our weevil bucket and took a sample. I casually said you might as well check, but weevils should not be here in only a week of flooding.

His sample revealed the problem. Instead of water weevil larvae floating to the top in the sample he got the grub shown at right. It is a grape colaspis grub.

This is a good example of Mother Nature not following the rules. We are supposed to have them in dry seeded rice not water seeded rice, but traditional water seeded rice is not drained for a prolonged period as was this field.





When the field shown in the photograph at left was sprayed, the applicator conveniently left a check plot for comparison. Sometimes accidents provide excellent examples of how good herbicides work and it certainly did here. The real surprise is the combination of weed and herbicide.

The weed is fall Panicum. On the left and in the background is the treated area while the right side did not receive herbicide.

According to B D Fontenot, the field representative for this field, it has been a field where Command was always included in the program because of the known fall Panicum population. This year that did not happen because weather conditions prevented its application – wind in the wrong direction, rain, and so on.

It was water seeded with either CL 151 or 161 I do not remember.



When the rice was about a foot tall so was the fall Panicum. Because they felt they had already missed the first window of herbicide application they used 6 ounces of Newpath plus 1 quart of pendimethalin plus .4 ounces of Permit plus 8 ounces of surfactant. This mixture was applied with a ground rig.

In the bottom photograph is clear evidence of herbicide effects on a large fall Panicum plant. I do not know why this worked since we have had trouble with fall Panicum control with Newpath and pendimethalin is not a post emergence herbicide and Permit is not a grass herbicide.

Maybe the larger plants have larger leaves and are thus more susceptible to the herbicide. Or maybe the combination of these ingredients has a synergistic effect of which we are not aware. I won't recommend it without research, but it worked this time.



The top two photographs have become regulars in field notes. They always appear shortly after the soybean growers start applying glyphosate. In this case these two photographs are representative of over 1000 acres in one area affected by glyphosate.

This grower had a good stand and his rice was already under permanent flood when it got hit. He had to drain to save the crop and now he will have to compensate for nitrogen loss and can expect at the least a delay in maturity and probably yield. One field appeared to be ready to go back to permanent flood, the one above could only tolerate flushing and another was in between. This problem is becoming far too common.

At right is the opposite. In this case a grass herbicide was applied to a nearby rice field and drifted onto sweet sorghum. Dr. Ron Levy supplied the photos to Dr. Webster then me.





The photograph above is of one of our verification fields I have mentioned before. This is a field of Jupiter which has had **no grass herbicide applied**. I did give in and recommend some Londax for sedges and broadleaf weeds even though I think we could have done without it. I decided not to push my luck. The fall Panicum lining the levee and part of the drain ditch is indicative of the kind of grass pressure we expected. The field also has a history of red rice and there were a few scattered here and there.

So how was the grass controlled? We controlled it the old fashioned way – with water. We used a pinpoint flood. The grower was so nervous about it that we had to check the field twice a week for the first two or three weeks. He was concerned we were going to kill his rice and we were worried he was going to let it dry too much. The water was applied to the field when the seedlings were only $\frac{3}{4}$ inch tall or so and has never been off since. We'll let you know how it turns out.