

Field Notes

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In the May 16th edition of Field Notes I included a photograph of a plant I thought was affected by Londax based on the symptoms which were typical of what I have come to expect from ALS type herbicides. The recommendation was to drain the field.

Last Saturday the field man who had originally contacted me called to tell me the field was getting worse, not better. So I went back to the field with Dr. Webster, Barrett Courville and Bruce Schultz.

It was apparent as soon as we arrived at the field that the problem was not Londax, it was Newpath. The real confirmation was the presence of larger apparently unaffected plants scattered throughout the field. These are plants that are resistant to Newpath either because they are volunteers from a previous crop, F_2 's from a previous crop, hybrids that picked up the resistance gene or even seed mixed in with the non-Clearfield hybrid planted here. I just missed it on this one. I considered Newpath from the beginning but could not pick up a pattern of injury because it was so widespread. At the time of the first visit the larger plants were not apparent.

Another call I got Saturday was about blast. It was the second or third I had last week about possible blast in rice. I guess the epidemic of 2012 has some folks jumpy about this disease. At right is a typical example of what might be confused with blast, but is NOT blast. The lesion at lower right is the most like a typical blast lesion. All of the other spots are not of the shape we would expect to see from a blast infection. They are too circular. Some blast lesions might be circular, but the majority will be elliptic or nearly so. The margins don't look quite right either which is a little harder to explain. In this case they look too distinct for blast.

In this case I knew it was not blast because I had recommended an application of a heavy dose of zinc chelate the week before. Sometimes a little leaf flecking can be expected even from zinc chelate. The other cases where blast was suspected were all associated with an herbicide application especially when a crop oil was included in the mixture. I have not seen a single blast lesion yet.





Above is a series of 4 photographs of Roundleaf mud plantain. The first picture was taken earlier this year in one of our verification fields. I was not familiar with the plant at this stage, but suspected it might be this weed based on history in this area. Last week I took the second and third photos in an area of clear water. In the second photograph there are two leaf shapes that are different from those in the first and the last. They represent the transition from the juvenile submersed leaves in the first photo. The first change is to a more linear floating leaf. Later floating leaves begin to take on a more heart shape and finally the completely emerged leaves exhibit the kidney shape typical of the plant and the basis of the scientific name, *Heteranthera reniformis*—reniform means kidney shaped. According to some publications the correct common name is Kidney Leaf Mud Plantain and a separate species is Roundleaf Mud Plantain, but the Southern Weed Science Society calls it Roundleaf Mud Plantain and that is good enough for me.



At left is a an example of how scum can help control weeds. If the scum was not there the Roundleaf mud plantain would be just like it is in the open areas as shown above. It was shaded out.



I have been trying to get this picture in for the last couple of weeks. The problem is areas of the field with a poor stand. It was drill seeded then the levees were pulled. You can see a difference from left to right and from top to bottom. If you figure this one out let me know—we couldn't.



I have long said my weed control philosophy is to reduce weeds to non-competitive levels and that it is not practical to try to sterilize a field. The yellow nutsedge in one of our verification fields is purely cosmetic. We could have made it look better with an application of Permit, but we would not have gotten our money back.



Tuesday rain chased us out of our verification field in Evangeline parish around 12:30. I headed for Oak Grove trying to beat the rain there. Missed it by a half hour. Drove in continuous rain all day Wednesday until I got to Eunice. The top photo of the demo plots was taken between Eunice and Crowley and the lower one was taken on the station. One farmer said he had 1200 acres of soybeans and could not see a leaf.