

Field Notes

June 13, 2014

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The top photo was taken last week in a field of CL111 thought to have been treated with Dermacor and damaged by armyworms. I showed some of this in the last edition and stated it was later found out that it had not been treated with Dermacor. The farmer sprayed with a pyrethroid shortly afterward. Wednesday I visited the field again to be certain the rice was recovering. He had received rain which was perfect for the situation. The pyrethroid treatment took care of the worms and rain was better than having to flush.



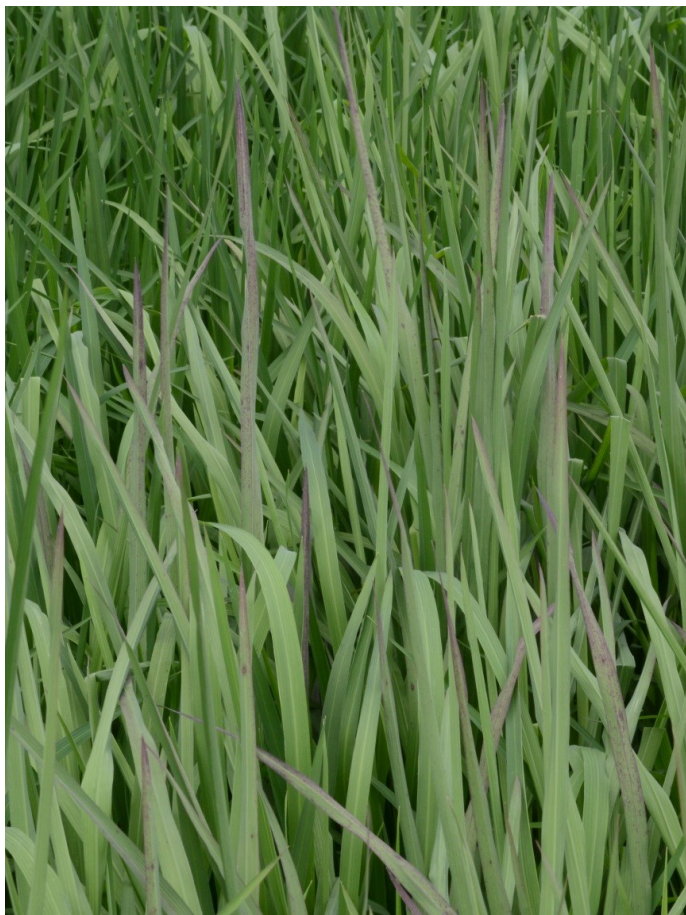
The last photo on the previous page was taken in a field where an ag plane flew over with a load of 2,4-D and a busted nozzle. The first pictures sent to me showed small white flecks similar to the first photo at right. I did not think it was 2,4-D at the time because I had not visited the field and was accustomed to seeing damage like that on the second leaf shown at right. As soon as we arrived at the field it was obvious what had happened and by that time the farmer had already determined the cause. He was concerned about the effects on yield. In the past injury like this has resulted in unusual heading with panicles emerging from the side of the flag leaf and some distortion of the panicles, but yield reduction has been minimal. I'm certain it did not do any good to the crop but it is a lot better that it is 2,4-D than some of the other herbicides that would have had a much greater negative impact on the crop.



The leaves in the photograph at left are out of focus in the upper part of the frame and in focus on the lower because those in the upper section are above the water line and the rest are below. The shiny areas are light reflecting off the surface of the water where it touches the leaves and forms a curved surface called a meniscus. The real point of the photograph is to illustrate the behavior of rice water weevils. A pair of mating weevil adults is indicated by the circle. They were about an inch under the water surface as were many of the weevils I observed that morning. Apparently there was a wave of rice water weevils that emerged last week because I saw a drastic increase in their numbers. In this field I could see them swimming from plant to plant wherever I stopped. Most of the rice in south Louisiana is beyond the stage when treatment is necessary, but anyone planting late following crawfish should be aware of the large population out there now.

Last week I reviewed several growth stages of rice one of which is shown at right. This is about the earliest that panicle differentiation (PD) can be detected without a microscope.

Below left and right are photographs of weedy rice types that are resistant to Newpath and Beyond herbicides. Both have been applied. Some plants are pubescent (hairy), some are smooth, some have wide leaves, some narrow, some are green and some show purplish tint to them. This is **not** outcrossed red rice. There is no history of hybrid rice having been grown in this field, but in 2010 CL151 was grown there. In that year one lot of CL151 had some sort of outcross in it. Four years later it is still showing up. This field was drill seeded, however I have been told that where farmers have water seeded and used pinpoint flooding these weedy types do not survive well. Apparently they do not have the wild characteristics of red rice thus are not as competitive. It has not been confirmed by research though it is worth noting.



What I am most concerned about right now that will affect this year's crop is the weather. In the May 10th edition of last year's Field Notes I made the statement that the weather in June and July would have more impact on the rice crop than the cold weather we had experienced to that point. We ended up with a mild dry June and first two weeks of July. That meant lots of sunshine without the negative effects of high temperatures. The result was the best yield statewide we have ever had and record yields for most farmers.

This June has been mild but we have not had the hours of sunshine we had last year. I keep hoping the clouds will move out providing the necessary hours of daylight needed to produce a good crop.

I still have found very little disease of any type and no blast at all. The weather worries me here too because the conditions are just right for the development of sheath blight. Keep up with Dr. Groth's disease newsletter for the latest in fungicide use to control and or prevent disease.

The most recent revision of the Louisiana Rice Production Handbook has just come back from the printers and should be in your local county agent's office next week or the week after. We will also have some to distribute at the Rice Research Station Field Day on Wednesday, June 25.