



Rice Stink Bug Egg Cluster

While rice stink bug pressure has not been especially bad this year they are still out there. I collected the egg cluster in a verification field on Tuesday. When I got to the office this morning the eggs had hatched. The red color here is not as bright as I have seen probably because they are a little dehydrated.



1st Instar Rice Stink Bugs

The first instar rice stink bugs are red and black and remain together. The second instars disperse and begin to feed on rice.

The second through fifth instars are cream colored with reddish markings on their backs. All of the instars are wingless. The adults are

the familiar golden brown color and have wings. In the image of the 5th instar the rudiments of wings are beginning to show. When scouting fields I do not count the **first** instars, but will note if I have picked up a hatch out. If we spray a field and find immatures in the field the following week we become concerned about the efficacy of the insecticide and whether or not it was sprayed as recommended. Finding adults the following week does not cause as much concern because they could have flown in after the insecticide was applied. Any residual properties of our current insecticides will not prevent re-infestation by adults.



2nd Instar Rice Stink Bug



3rd or 4th Instar Rice Stink Bug



5th Instar Rice Stink Bug



Adult Rice Stink Bug

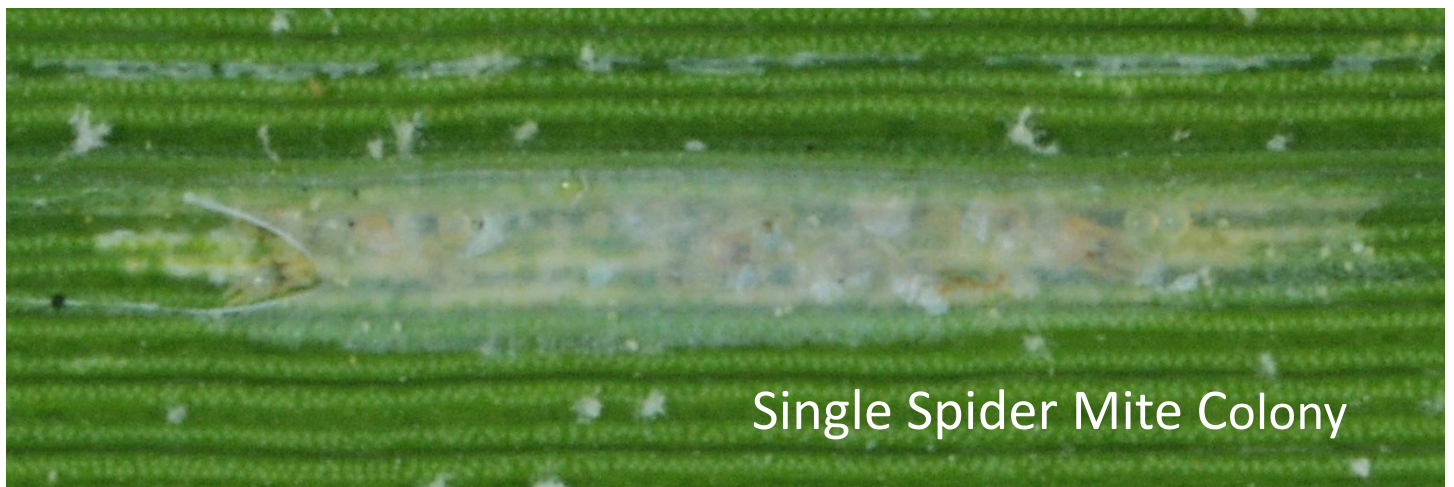
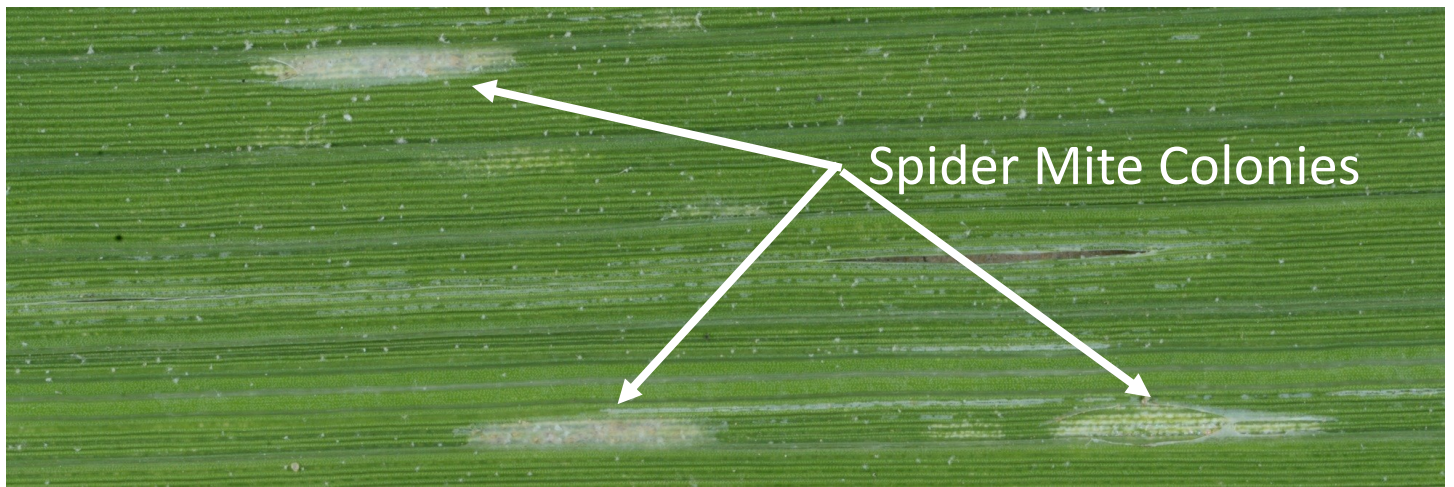


A couple of years ago Stuart Gauthier and I were asked to take a look at a field in Vermilion parish where he was then a county agent. Plants along one side of the field had white spots on them as depicted above. Upon closer examination Stuart's experience with horticultural crops alerted him to the possibility of spider mites, a problem not noted on rice prior to that, at least in Louisiana.

When we used hand lenses we could see the spider mites both under the webbing and moving around on the leaves. These are very small mites. The white spots are of two types, one is the location of the spider mite colony that is covered by the webbing that leads to their common name. The other spots are where the mites have been feeding. Because they suck the juices out of the cells of the leaves they create small areas of dried out tissue.

On the next page are a series of photographs in which I have attempted to show the colonies on a rice leaf, a close-up of a single colony (where the silhouettes of the mites can, with a little imagination, be seen), the third image is of a colony where the webbing is partially removed exposing the eggs of the mite, and the fourth picture is of a single mite.

The problem is not serious and more oddity than real problem, but just in case you see these spots you can eliminate herbicide injury or disease which were suspected when Stuart and I were first called to the field a few years ago. I noticed these this week in Evangeline parish. I saw them first on grass growing near the field then on rice plants at the edge of the field.





This year we have found the problem illustrated above more than we have since 2005. In that year we had an area of our verification field that had quite a few white heads. We checked for borers, the typical culprit, and found none. On the Rice Research Station that year Dr. Richard Dunand had an experiment with plant growth regulators and several rice varieties. This problem showed up consistently in one of the treatments. At first I had no idea what was causing the problem. Then I got a call from Randy Waligura in Texas who asked if we were having problems with rice field rats. Bingo! I had suspected some sort of rodent or a very large insect because plant with white heads can be found to have been chewed almost in half below the panicles but above the water line. Another interesting, but not especially severe problem so far.

We were supposed to harvest a verification field today. Rain changed that. I have not heard much in the way of yields yet and expect next week to be more active.