Field Notes
April 24, 2006
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Last week we encountered one of those unusual situations in which we recommended application of an insecticide to control rice water weevil (RWW) adults. Feeding was so heavy on one to three leaf seedling rice that the rice was dehydrating as a consequence of tissue damage. The photo on the right is of much less severe feeding even though it is clearly severe too. I neglected to photograph the really severe injury. RWW were everywhere last week indicating a flight had taken place coincidental to the change in weather. Mother Nature always provides a means of timing to her own. The plant represented at right is about 10 days from green ring. We did **not** recommend insecticide in this situation because in all likelihood it would have been too late and the response would have been cosmetic not economic. Please note the LSU AgCenter does **NOT** normally recommend treating rice for adult RWW feeding. The circumstances were special.

Sometimes situations in fields require a little ingenuity and a good sense of humor. You can tell by the photograph at left that one of our verification farmers doesn't plan on doing any fishing until the crop is in the bins. So since he was not going to use his boat for recreation he decided to use it for soil conservation. This is not listed as one of the BMP's for rice, but it works as long as no one steals his boat. The device to the left of the boat is one of our flow meters. We noted on his field (heavy clay, drill seeded) that it required 1.9 acre-inches for each of the two flushes required so far.

In the photograph to the right is a field of conventional rice onto which Newpath drifted from an adjacent field. Pictures of this same field were included in the April 24th issue of Field Notes. The last photograph of that issue was near the same area shown here. While complete recovery cannot be claimed, there is substantial change since our first visit to it. We are getting lots of calls regarding Newpath injury to CLXL8 and some other varieties to a lesser degree. The LSU AgCenter is aware of the problem as is RiceTec. We do not have an explanation for the problem and to speculate would only invite criticism. If and when we do find out what is going on we will let you know. I mention it here because the symptoms are similar to what is shown here.

The field shown in the photograph to the left appears superficially like the field in the photograph above, but the problem is not the same. In this case this is Jupiter in which Localized Decline (formerly called Mystery Malady) had begun to develop or possibly hydrogen sulfide toxicity (formerly called Calcasieu disease). The reason I mention two disorders is because the symptoms of both problems were present. The solution to both is the same; drain the field and allow it to dry as much as possible. The pattern of thinned out areas of the field within which are stunted plants is typical of both problems. The absence of leaf spotting and/or discolored roots is problematic. However, I did find a few plants with what appeared to be remnants of hydrogen sulfide toxicity. The presence of lots of undecomposed plant material also points to that problem.

The photograph to the left is out of sequence because we picked up the problem yesterday and it was easier to add it here than start this issue over. In our verification field in Concordia parish there was lots of evidence of rice water weevil feeding as well as large areas of standing water, but in the muddy areas I could not find the weevils. After seeing one crawling on the mud I waited to find out where it would hide. As soon as it reached the base of a plant it burrowed into the mud. After that we could find them without much effort. Where there was standing water they were on the plants, but in the absence of free water they dug down into the mud. In both this field and the Avoyelles field we recommended an insecticide even though permanent flood had not yet been established because of the large numbers and the areas of standing water where an egg lay could take place. The silver object is a pen point.

The three preceding photographs are as we saw them in our Avoyelles verification field. From a distance a dark area, up close shriveled plants, then the hole in the ground. Guess.