



Last week localized decline started showing up in several fields. If you get Barrett Courville's news letter you saw a photograph very similar to the top one here. The field in the bottom photograph is **not** localized decline. The original call was about possible herbicide injury. Dr. Webster, Keith Fontenot and Dr. Webster's graduate student visited the field. After careful investigation it was determined that lime had been applied a few years ago in the affected areas. The symptoms are zinc deficiency. At left are close-ups of leaves from each field. The left most photograph is from the field showing localized decline and the right photo is from the lime induced zinc deficiency field. Pretty close to the same thing. Dr. Harrell has studied localized decline and has been able to prevent it with high levels of zinc fertilization. In a couple of cases we have recommended high levels of zinc to correct the problem, but do not have enough follow up to know if it will work as a corrective measure.

The spots on the leaves of the plants at right were thought to be potassium deficiency. Based on just the photograph it does not appear to be potassium deficiency, but instead is brown spot or possible speckling from an earlier herbicide application. Without seeing the field or having samples to submit to Dr. Groth it is difficult to determine exactly what caused the spots. If I had to bet I would bet on brown spot. This disease is often associated with nutrient deficiency.



In the next photograph is a large billbug or snout beetle. The adult rice water weevil and the boll weevil are much smaller versions of the same thing. When I photographed this one I thought it was the rice levee billbug, but after closer examination I am not sure it is the rice levee billbug. I did not collect it so an entomologist cannot key it out. It was found in one of our verification fields on a rice plant which led me to think that it was the rice levee billbug. I have mentioned this one before. The grub feeds within the stem down at the base of the plant causing symptoms very similar to borer damage except it is at the base of the plant and not in the upper part of the stem as borer damage. They are usually found on the levees or edges of fields where there is a transition from completely flooded to completely dry.



I have also had several reports of heavy adult rice water weevil feeding scars on young rice. We had the same problem in one of our verification fields. In spite of having several experienced folks with us in the verification field we could not find weevils. It caused me to wonder if there is some other insect that can cause feeding signs that resemble those left by RWW adult feeding. Regardless, an application of insecticide appears to cause a very positive response by the rice plants.

Even though we got some rain a couple of weeks ago it is still fairly dry. Associated with dry conditions are chinch bugs. They often will move out of pastures into rice fields in search of anything green. We found some in a field in Evangeline parish last week and one consultant said he has never seen as many chinch bugs in his yard as he has this year. If plants appear to be firing or just drying out and the field is not flooded, look carefully for chinch bugs. In many cases they will hide in cracks in the soil especially during the hottest parts of the day.

Saturday I got a call from a consultant who had discovered armyworms in a field he monitored. He noticed it because earlier an application of Newpath plus RiceBeaux had been made to the field. Typical propanil burn followed, but when the plants seemed especially slow to recover he checked on the situation. He reported at least one armyworm per plant. I mention this for two reasons. First, dry conditions often encourage armyworm problems as they do chinch bug problems. Second, because propanil had been applied no organophosphate or carbamate insecticides could be applied. Back when we used propanil often and only had these insecticide chemistries we would have no effective way to control armyworms other than flooding them out. Remember, propanil and organophosphate or carbamate insecticides interact causing severe injury or death of rice plants. Examples of these insecticides are malathion, methyl parathion and Sevin. The pyrethroid insecticides do not have this problem.

