



The herbicide drift issues in rice continue. Last week I showed photographs of glyphosate drift on to rice. I am not trying to beat a dead horse, but here are more. What makes these important is that the symptoms are not typical of what we have seen in the past. The drift rate was probably low and the panicles were well developed at the time of the hit thus there is less grain distortion than has been seen in the past. The flag leaves, though not shown here were normal in appearance. Blanking is the most critical injury symptom.

The first photograph on the next page was taken by Keith Fontenot. Last week I had photographs of severe brown spot disease on rice, but did not have an overall shot of the field. This is of one corner of that field. Keith indicated the problem is becoming more evident and more severe with the progression of ripening. Most rice diseases will increase in severity after the field is drained because along with draining comes the death of the upper plant parts. As they mature their natural defense mechanisms are lost. Fungi will continue to grow until the tissue is too dry to support them. This is why we often see sheath blight “blow up” at the end of the season resulting in more damage than might have been anticipated earlier in the year.



Keith also took the photograph at right. He said most of the damage occurred when a strong line of thunderstorms moved through the area about ten days ago. As far as I know it is not widespread.

We really dodged a bullet this weekend when Bonnie fizzled out. There are a lot of farmers out there just waiting on the grain moisture to drop a little more to begin harvesting.

The few yields I have heard are a little disappointing in comparison to last year, but not surprising because we did not have the growing conditions this year that we had last year. Too much rain and too many clouds this year were the culprits.





So you think you have a sprangletop problem. Dr. Hummel took this one last week while she was out checking another problem. I spoke to the consultant who has fought this problem on this farm for the past couple of years. He has harvested seed for testing for herbicide resistance. It has had the book thrown at it in terms of herbicide applications. It appears there may be other factors that could have contributed in addition to the possibility of herbicide resistance.