



Above are two photographs that are a continuation from last week's discussion of Peruvian Watergrass. After contacting plant taxonomist Lowell Urbatsch in Baton Rouge I found out there are no records of this grass north of the intracoastal waterway. I went back to the field Tuesday and found the female panicles were full of opened female spikelets. It is difficult to find and even more difficult to photograph a plant with both male and female panicles that are at the same stage. Apparently the male flowers open first then the female which is one of Mother Nature's methods of insuring cross fertilization.

The close-up of the female spikelets shows the feathery white stigmas. Last week the female spikelets were not open. The pictures of the male spikelets last week showed the stamens—the pollen bearing structures. The importance here is to learn to recognize this plant and report it to us if you find it. Otherwise, we will have it all over the place like Itchgrass (Raoulgrass) and Creeping Rivergrass (Habetz grass, perennial barnyardgrass).

I have had several inquiries about the accuracy of DD50 this year given the unusual spring. Two months ago Dr. Linscombe and I agreed the program would be useless this year. We were wrong. It has been surprisingly accurate. I have had a couple of calls from folks who were caught by surprise when internode elongation occurred on time and they had not expected it so soon. I have also been asked about the number of days between green ring (internode elongation), panicle differentiation (PD), and 50% heading. After looking through a couple of years of verification field data it appears there are roughly 10 to 15 days from internode elongation to PD and about 15 to 20 days from PD to 50% heading for a total of approximately 25 to 30 days from internode elongation to 50% heading. These are very rough estimates. Check your fields and split stems as necessary.

Yesterday I encountered the heaviest adult rice water weevil population I have ever seen. It was in our verification field in W. Carroll parish. The field is planted with a hybrid that was treated with Cruiser.

Initially I was concerned about the heavy adult feeding damage which on rare occasions has warranted treatment. Dr. Stout has studied the impact of the low seeding rate associated with hybrids combined with the Cruiser label that requires treatment on the basis of 100 pounds of seed. Because seeding rate affects rate of insecticide per acre under some situations rice water weevil larvae control may be compromised. After thinking about it over night I decided to recommended spraying the field.

The weevils you see in my palm I collected (and dropped some) while standing in one spot and stripping about 3 or 4 feet of drill row.

The lower photograph shows the heavy infestation. How many rice water weevil adults can you count? The windy conditions really hampered my ability to get as many of them in focus as I could.





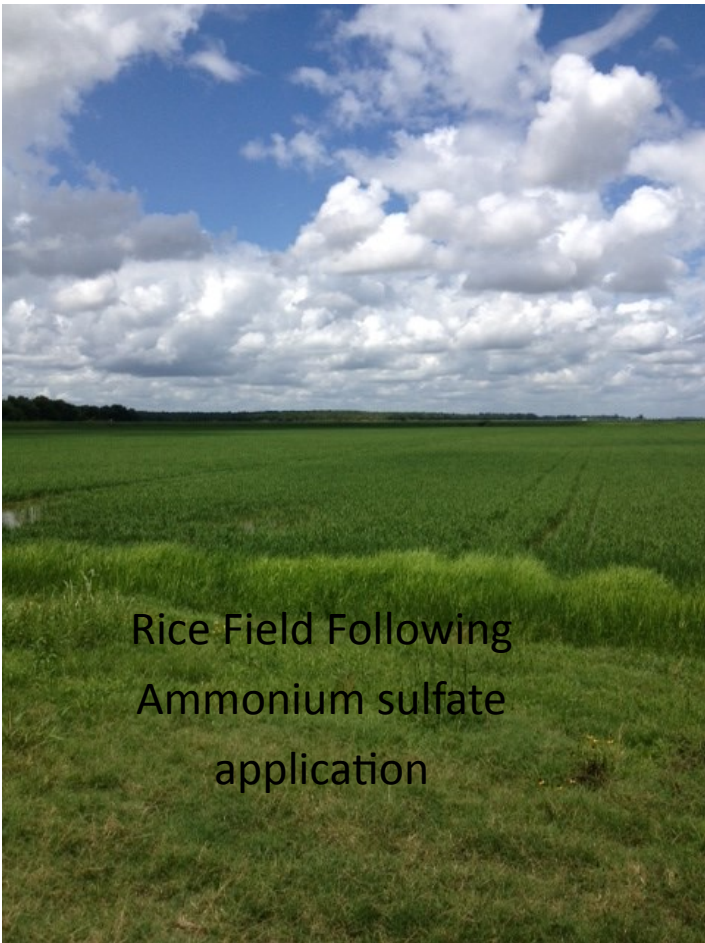
Last week I ran out of space so could not include the two photos shown above. At left is an algal mat below the water surface. The algae grows on the soil surface and integrates its parts with the soil to form the mat. When it releases gases, mostly oxygen I believe, the gas forms bubbles which causes the mat to detach from the soil surface and float. As long as rice remains above the mat it does not harm the crop and may aid in weed control by shading.

On the next page are two photographs. The first one was taken by county agent Stuart Gauthier of a field we showed in the May 31st edition of Field Notes. It had been diagnosed as having sulfur deficiency on the basis of symptoms plus response to a plot where ammonium sulfate had been applied. An adjacent plot of urea alone eliminated the response to nitrogen. Ammonium sulfate is 21% nitrogen and 24% sulfur while urea contains only nitrogen. On that basis we recommended the farmer apply ammonium sulfate to the entire field. As you can see the response is dramatic.

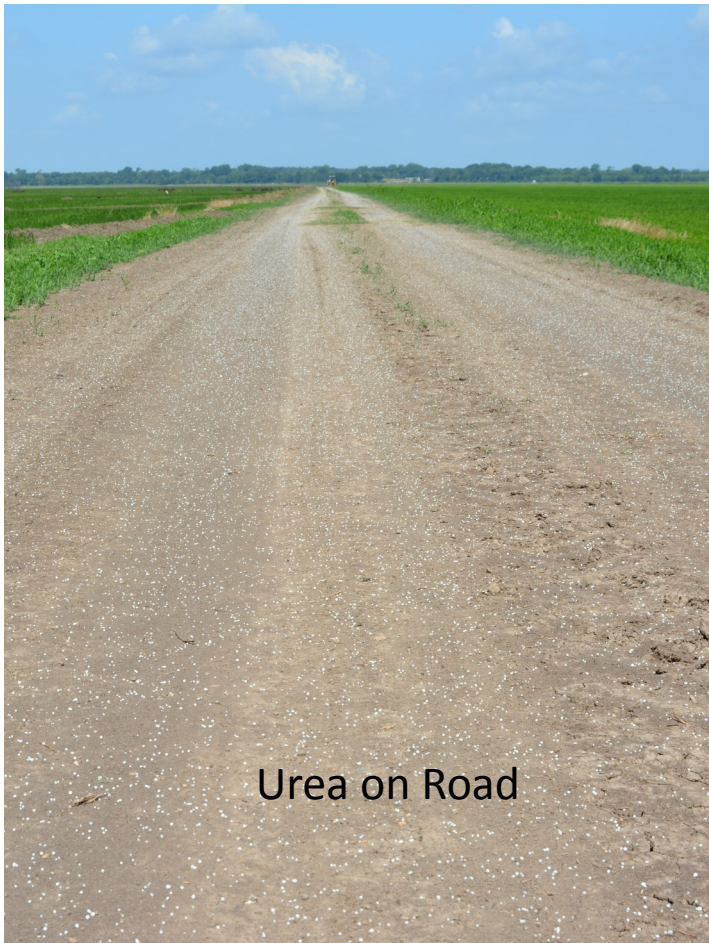
Even though I do not have a photo, Keith Fontenot followed up with the grower where we suspected phosphorus deficiency and put out a small plot to test the hypothesis. The farmer reported it had begun to respond.

The second photograph I took on a field road next to a rice field that had just been fertilized with 250 pounds of urea per acre. The road is .75 mile long and about 22 feet wide. At today's prices that is a pretty expensive road bed.

The third photo is self-explanatory.



Rice Field Following
Ammonium sulfate
application



Urea on Road

