

Field Notes

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Tuesday while checking one of our verification fields that is in the 3/8 to 1/2 inch panicle stage we noticed quite a few adult rice stink bugs and found this hatch-out. The immature rice stink bugs are red and black. The egg cluster is usually in two rows. This stage, first instar, stays clustered together and does not feed heavily. By the second instar they have begun to disperse. I consider the third, fourth and fifth instars to be the “teenagers” of the stink bugs which means they are always hungry because they are growing. Seeing this hatch-out in a field that is not heading leads me to believe the numbers will be high this year.

Our verification field in Vermilion parish is about 95% headed in the areas where the stand is normal. There are two strips in the field where the stand is greatly reduced and in these strips the crop is about a week behind. In the headed rice we found well over a threshold of adult rice stink bugs and recommended spraying.

Keep an eye out for them.

The Vermilion verification field is shown in the lower photograph.



I have also begun to receive more reports of disease. If the rainy pattern we are now in continues for the next couple of weeks I expect disease pressure to increase. Continue to scout at least until you reach the 50% heading stage. In most years when we reach this stage we are at what we consider the “go or no-go” decision regarding fungicide application. This year I might watch the field close for an additional week.

I got my first report of blast in CL151 today. It is in a field bordered by trees and the problem is reported to be confined to that area.

Our field of Mermentau in Vermilion parish is still very clean so we did not recommend fungicide. In our field of CL111 in Evangeline sheath blight pressure remains fairly light, but is increasing. We recommended applying fungicide as soon as the first stray heads begin to emerge.



Every year we see some turtle damage in rice, especially in areas where crawfish farming is practiced. While this field was not in crawfish last winter it evidently is attractive to turtles. Along each levee we observed what is shown above. I still cannot figure out if they are feeding on the stalks or just clearing a pathway.

Gretchen Zaunbrecher, who works in one of the labs at the Rice Research Station sent this photograph to me. It illustrates how well adapted the Chinese Tallow tree, aka Chicken Tree, is to our environment. A little accumulation of debris in the fork of an oak tree provided enough media for the seed to germinate and the tree to become established.

