



This picture was taken around noon yesterday in a field of CL111. It was near the end of its flowering period for the day. Some florets had already closed. Here you can see four partially open florets from which the anthers have already shed their pollen. Look carefully at the cream colored anthers and you will see openings at each end from which the pollen was released. The five dollar word for this is anthesis. The floret that is closed has not yet opened which can be determined by the yellow silhouettes of the anthers full of pollen within the floret.

As we walked this field county agent Keith Fontenot, farmer Jeremy Craton, and I all got covered with pollen. The current weather conditions of lower temperatures and lower humidity are ideal for pollination. At the field day in Jeff Davis parish someone brought in a plant infected with bacterial panicle blight. This plant was older and of Jazzman 2 which is very susceptible to this disease. I actually expected to start getting calls about bacterial panicle blight because rice flowering during the hot humid nights of last week and the week before were likely to be affected. The lack of calls is encouraging.

On the next page is a photograph of a field I noticed on my return to Crowley. Without a knowledge of the history of the field I can only speculate. It appears to be Newpath resistant red rice or at the least red rice at a level we once thought was common and now treat as exceptional. There are more fields with this situation this year than we have had in several previous years. The unusually cool weather of March and April caused many farmers to delay flooding and herbicide application in an effort to save struggling rice seedlings. By delaying both it encouraged weed emergence of which red rice is our most troublesome especially if it is now resistant to Newpath and Beyond. If this crop of red rice is allowed to produce seed this field will have to be water seeded and pinpoint flooded whenever rice is planted for several years. It was in an area where soybeans are not a good rotational crop.



At right is a panicle affected by either glyphosate drift or straighthead. The farmer said no glyphosate had been used nearby. Because there were only a few scattered heads in a small area of the field and none of the flag leaves were twisted I suspect it is straighthead.

In this area of the field I noticed what appeared to be hydrogen sulfide toxicity symptoms on the roots last week. It is a corner where there is likely an accumulation of organic matter.

Straighthead is a disorder without a single definitive cause. We know we can induce it experimentally with arsenic, that it is associated with sandy soils, high amounts of anaerobically decomposed organic matter and possibly other factors. It is a physiological disorder rather than a disease caused by a micro-organism such as fungi or bacteria.

Some fields will exhibit a tendency to cause straighthead every time rice is grown in them. A consultant called this morning to ask about the susceptibility of a particular variety to straighthead. It turned out to be very susceptible. He also just found out the field has a history of straighthead.

If when he splits the stems of the plants he can determine that he has not yet reached internode elongation or green ring he can still drain and dry the field to prevent the problem. He suspected the field was beyond that point and draining at this point could cause more harm than good. Had he known of the history of the field he could have planned to drain early as part of his management recommendations.







Looks like a wet fireworks display. Have a Happy and safe 4th of July.

