



Last week I showed images of the sugarcane borer in rice and this week I have a couple of the rice stalk borer (or sometimes called the rice stem borer). At left is a borer that is about an inch long. Two features help to separate this borer from the Mexican rice borer. The dark head capsule and the continuous double lines along each side are in contrast to the Mexican rice borer which has a light colored head capsule and broken lines rather than continuous on each side. The most definitive feature is harder to see. The area in the circle in the right photo is of the setae (tiny, stiff hairs). The rice stalk borer has **two** setae while the Mexican rice borer has only one at that location.



This series of photographs is of Bearded Sprangletop (*Leptochloa fascicularis*). Its common name is derived from the presence of small awns (hair like extensions on the tips of the florets). Often the term “beard” is used in reference to grasses that have long awns, such as, red rice or some varieties of wheat.

The two most similar species are Amazon Sprangletop (*Leptochloa panicoides*) and Mexican Sprangletop (*Leptochloa uninerva*). Both are common in rice, but neither Amazon (sometimes called Tighthead) Sprangletop nor Mexican Sprangletop have awns.

Bearded Sprangletop is more common in the northeastern rice growing parishes, but is not restricted to them. Near where I took these photographs I found Nealley Sprangletop (*Leptochloa nealleyi*). That was not something I expected and the first time I have seen it in northeast Louisiana. In the references I have Nealley Sprangletop is supposed to be restricted to the southern part of the state.

All of the plants appeared to be restricted to an area where soil had been brought in from some other location to fill in a couple of low spots. I'd like to know where the soil was obtained.



The two photographs above illustrate the effect of applying glyphosate instead of Clincher to a field. The application was made some time ago and not noticed for a couple of weeks. At the time these pictures were taken the primary growing points had been killed or damaged resulting in axillary bud development. The leaves were stripped from the plant shown in the second photograph to make it easier to see this development.

At each node or joint on the stem are buds that normally do not develop because as long as the main growing point or apical bud remains intact it suppresses the development of axillary buds. Once this is removed the axillary buds develop. This is what happens following harvest if the straw is not manipulated (mowed, rolled and so on) in traditional second crop production. It also accounts for the uneven panicle development in second crop.

When the first crop stubble is mowed or broken close to the soil line the amount of axillary bud development is reduced significantly. Regrowth then comes from buds near or on the crown resulting in about two weeks delay in maturity, more uniformity and in some cases higher ratoon crop yields.

In essence the field that received the dose of glyphosate was beginning to produce a second crop without having produced a first crop.