

Field Notes

August 19, 2013

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We are making the same slow progress most of you are in getting our verification fields harvested. At left is the most recent harvest, Catahoula, in St. Landry parish.

I checked my records from last year because we are in the second year on the same farm. We like to keep the same farmer two years in a row when possible. Last year he planted CL152 on April 1 and harvested on July 31. This year he planted Catahoula on April 2 and harvested on August 15. According to Dr. Linscombe's data Catahoula averages 81 days to 50% heading while CL152 averages 83. In theory we should have harvested Catahoula even earlier than we did. Clearly the cool spring delayed the crop by about two weeks as we expected.

Below is a summary of the yields to this point. We hope to harvest in Jeff Davis later this week, weather permitting. West Carroll is not even drained yet so harvest is not likely until the second week of September. The fields in Vermilion and Evangeline will not be second cropped. The field in St. Landry was flail mowed and fertilized with urea and flooded with the intention of second cropping it. Last year we harvested second crop in the first week of November. If the two week delay of the first crop harvest results in a corresponding delay of the ratoon crop it might be the first week of December before it is harvested.

Parish	Acres	Variety	cwt/A green	bb/A green	bu/A green	cwt/A @ 12%	bb/A @ 12%	bu/A @ 12%
Evangeline	38.0	CL111	87.67	54.1	194.8	83.68	51.7	186.0
Jeff Davis	39.3	CLXL729	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
St. Landry	52.4	Catahoula	94.09	58.1	209.1	87.25	53.9	193.9
W. Carroll	34.5	CLXL756	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
Vermilion	17.3	Mermentau	63.06	38.9	140.1	58.98	36.4	131.1

Last week I got a call from a local dealer rep who found a plant in a soybean field that he immediately suspected was Palmer Amaranth. With the help of Dr. Daniel Stephenson we were able to confirm that it is indeed Palmer Amaranth or Palmer Pigweed as it is sometimes named. I know it is not a rice problem, but because we have not had any reports of Palmer Amaranth this far south and it is such a potentially serious problem, I thought it was worth discussing. This field has had two applications of glyphosate made to it. So, not only is this an unusual pest in this area it is suspected of being a glyphosate resistant version.

Palmer Amaranth is what is known as a dioecious species; it has separate male and female plants. The term is derived from Greek and literally means "two houses". On the next page is a single male plant growing in the soybean field. The third page has a photograph of the male and female inflorescences and the final page has a close-up comparing the two inflorescences.

One way to tell them apart in the field is to grasp them. If it sticks you it is female. If it is soft or at least not as prickly it is male. Using a hand lens you can easily see the feathery stigmas of the female flowers or the yellow anthers of the male flowers. If you notice any plants you suspect might be Palmer Amaranth please let us know. The best treatment at this time is to hand pull the plants, roots and all, then burn them. I would burn them in the same field to avoid transporting the seed. It is capable of producing thousands of tiny seeds that can be easily carried on your clothing or on equipment. It will be a lot easier to remove a few plants by hand now than to try to control larger populations later.



Palmer Amaranth

Inflorescence of
Male Plant



Inflorescence of
Female Plant





Close-up of male inflo-
rescence of Palmer Amaranth



Close-up of female inflo-
rescence of Palmer Amaranth