



You might remember this picture from last year's Field Notes. It was taken on May 11, 2012, in a field of rice heavily infected with leaf blast and was the first case we documented of what was to become the worst year of blast incidence in recent memory. Dr. Groth visited that same field yesterday and reported the following: "A field near Crowley that had severe blast in 2012 was checked yesterday and leaf blast lesions were found on the new sprouts growing from the stubble. They are actively sporulating at this time due to the favorable warm moist environmental conditions. Barring a hard freeze between now and planting season, to kill the regrowth, we can expect earlier than normal blast development again in 2013. The leaves also had a large number of narrow brown leaf spots and the sheaths had net blotch both caused by *Cercospora*."

On the next page are two photographs one depicting the narrow brown lesions on leaves from which the disease gets its common name and the other of the net blotch phase of the same disease on the collar area of rice leaves. The net blotch symptom is the result of heavier pigmentation of the cell walls and the tissue between the cell walls darkening in contrast to the lighter internal areas of the cells.

It looks like we are in for another interesting year. This is the first edition of the year. Other editions will follow as needed until we get into the season when weekly editions will begin.



Leaf lesions of Narrow Brown Leaf Spot of rice caused by the fungus *Cercospora janseana*.

Net blotch symptoms on the collar region of rice leaves caused by the fungus *Cercospora janseana*.

