



I took the above left photograph Monday morning to illustrate the short rice in still dry plots on the experiment station. In the April 19th edition I had a similar photograph to show how short the rice was considering how long it had been planted. The scale is in inches and I selected one of the more vigorous plots for the photograph. I took the second photograph this morning after between 2.5 and 3 inches of rain fell last night. This was not intentional flooding and I know Dr. Harrell had some fertility experiments he wanted to remain dry until next Wednesday. The rice in the photographs was planted Thursday of the first week of March.

I have had a lot of calls from farmers wondering if all this short, late rice is going to suffer yield loss. I really do not know. Logic points to a reduction in yield because it has an effect similar to late planting. However, I think the weather in June and July will have a great deal to do with the success or failure of the crop. If we experience a mild summer with more sunshine than we have had of late, yield potential is good. If it turns out excessively hot and humid there is less chance of good yields.

On the next page the top photograph was taken yesterday in our verification field in West Carroll parish. The seeds and disturbed soil are not from us checking on germination. The seeds are really just hulls where blackbirds have flipped over the soil and eaten the seeds. While not as severe as we have had in the southern part of the state especially in water seeded rice, it is not good especially considering the low planting rate of the hybrid planted there.

I have also had several calls about using AV-1011 or even Avipel on rice in the northeastern part of the state. The section 18 for AV-1011 is limited to Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion parishes. This was a concession we had to make to obtain the label. Avipel is not labeled on rice. The use of either product on rice in the northeastern parishes will only jeopardize our chances of obtaining labels in the future. A single documented violation can do more harm than 50 letters of support for the product.





Below are two insects found in rice fields this week; one is familiar and the other an occasional problem. At left is the rice water weevil. I included it here to remind me to let you know we have started detecting them in fields and that seeing the adult in fields treated with the seed treatments is expected. These insecticides control the larvae, not the adults. We treated our field in Vermilion parish with Belay insecticide last week and found no weevils this week. We will let you know how it holds up.

The other critter was found in a field in Evangeline parish yesterday. It is a greenbug, a type of aphid known for its ability to damage grain crops. We seldom see significant injury in rice, but the literature indicates this aphid can be especially problematic when a long cool spring follows a mild winter. Under those conditions its predators do not build up as fast as the aphids. A couple of weeks ago Arkansas reported greenbug problems in rice. Special identifying characteristics of this aphid are the darker green line running the length of the abdomen, the black feet, and black tips of the cornicles. The cornicles are the little “exhaust pipe” looking extensions from the rear of the abdomen.

In the field where we picked them up stand was reduced to the point of having to re-plant, but as you will see on the next page it was not due solely to the greenbugs.







Both of the above photographs were of CL111 seedlings in the same field where we found the greenbugs featured on the previous page. Dr. Groth identified the problem as Stackburn or *Alternaria* leaf spot caused by *Alternaria padwickii*. It is usually associated with leaf spotting of older rice without causing significant yield losses. In the Louisiana Rice Production Handbook is the following statement, “This fungus is the most common seed-borne fungus in Louisiana and may cause seedling blight.” I do not recall ever seeing it as severe as it was in the field county agent Keith Fontenot and dealer rep B. D. Fontenot and I visited yesterday.

The combination of the greenbugs and this disease probably caused more damage than either would have alone—a classic synergistic effect. The farmer will have to re-plant the field.

By the way, I have posted all of the Field Notes of this year on the web and hope to get them on the Louisiana Crops blog soon. When I get them up I’ll let you know and provide a link. Another point of information; if you open up one of the PDF files on the web or from your e-mail and right click on the photographs you can enlarge them. Place your cursor on the photograph, then right click, then click on marquee zoom or some similar command, then each time you left click the image will enlarge.