



The top left photograph was used in the Field Notes edition of April 19th. The photograph at right is of approximately the same area of our Jeff Davis verification field following an application of Newpath plus propanil made on April 17th a few hours after the picture was taken. This verifies the work Dr. Webster has been doing with Newpath plus propanil and Newpath plus propanil plus thiobencarb. Thiobencarb is the common chemical name of the active ingredient in Bolero and one of the ingredients in RiceBeaux. We will still have to apply the second application of Newpath and will likely add something else, but like most of you we need to let the rice grow before doing anything else.

Most of the phone calls I have had this week deal with either poor rice growth or drift. The common phrase is "I have rice that is 60 days old and looks 30". If that was years and a person that would be good, but it is not a good thing in rice. Several callers have asked "How old is my rice?" This year forget the calendar. The best way to answer that question is study the plants. If the plants are well tillered, then split some stems. This week while checking for rice water weevils in our Vermilion verification field I split a few plants and was surprised to see three crown nodes. Under normal conditions this would indicate green ring (internode elongation) is about ten days away. However, this year I expect it to be about two weeks from that day.

There have been many reports of difficulty in getting a permanent flood established because the plants are so small. I advised one caller to go ahead and apply nitrogen and try to put a shallow flood on the field. He then asked about losing nitrogen if he had to drain because plants would not tolerate a flood. My response was that I would rather take a chance on losing some nitrogen than to delay flooding too long. The most advanced fields are those that have been flooded for a couple of weeks or so. If you have clear water even if some plants get covered they can tolerate it for a short period. If you have muddy water don't cover the plants. Once flooded water, especially clear water, exposed to sunlight will warm up and provide warmth to plants.



Newpath injury
on Jazzman-2



Newpath injury
on Johnsongrass



Field of Jazzman-2 affected by Newpath drift.
Note the green "shadow" where plants were
protected by the tree.

Barrett Courville and I were called to look at the field shown in the three photographs on the previous page. The complaint was about a field that had been fine then started turning yellow. It was so uniform that herbicide drift was not thought to be the problem even though individual plants exhibited ALS injury symptoms. (As a point of information, the phrase ALS is an abbreviation for AcetoLactate Synthase. I ran across that and made a note to pass it along because it has been used so much.) Not until we drove around to another side of the field where the green “shadow” effect could be seen clearly were we able to feel fairly certain it was herbicide injury. Finding symptoms on Johnsongrass added more evidence.

The grower called his flying service who told him the morning a not-so-nearby field had been sprayed with Newpath the wind was out of the northeast at 1 mile per hour. The direction fit, but the velocity did not. When Dr. Webster visited the field he said he felt pretty sure there had to have been a temperature inversion at the time of application. A temperature inversion occurs when a cold layer of air is trapped either below a layer of warm air or between layers of warm air. When spray droplets get caught in these layers they can move long unpredictable distances.



The next field we visited showed the symptoms shown in the two photographs above. The field exhibited an odd “water pattern” by which I mean the pattern followed where water would have moved in the field. This time the healthier plants were associated with the ditches and lower areas of the field. Had the problem been Localized Decline it would have been just the opposite. The extreme “fish hooking” shown in the photograph at right is reminiscent of Delayed Phytotoxicity Syndrome, a condition associated with herbicides that are applied, then broken down by bacteria into toxic compounds. The problem here is that the only herbicide that has been applied is Londax impregnated on fertilizer. Nothing seems to fit neatly. The recommendation was to drain and dry the field.

Record setting cold weather is not helping any of this.

When walking our verification field in St. Landry parish we came across this green trail through the field. The farmer recognized it immediately. The green rice is in the location of a ditch last year.

I have no idea why this kind of thing happens. We have long seen similar effects in soybeans where the rice field levees from the year before always stand out in the soybeans.

One theory is that it is the extra topsoil associated with either building a levee or filling in a ditch. Another theory is that water moves to these ditches carrying along with it dissolved nutrients or just the effect of the difference in moisture alone.

Both are good theories. I just do not know which one is correct if any.

I once saw an extreme example of this where a sugarcane field had been converted to rice. The sugarcane rows were knocked down, the field was disked at least twice, then it was laser leveled. A few weeks after rice was planted there were distinct alternating yellow and green rows corresponding to the cane rows. We never did figure out if the green was where the top of the row and cane had been or in the bottom of the furrows.



For years I have seen alligators in association with rice fields, but this was the first baby alligator I have ever run across. It was about 10 inches long.