



Late one afternoon this week I got a call to look at some “rice that looks like it is dying.” From a distance there were apparent rust colored areas of the field that corresponded to areas of the field that had remained dry longer than they should have. Close-up views exhibit one of the worst cases of blast I have seen since 1995 when it ripped through many Bengal fields. The variety here is CL261. We know it is susceptible to blast and have documented it in this variety since its release, but this is the worst case I have seen. The plants have about 3 crown nodes so it is much too early to apply any fungicide. Two more factors complicate the issue: first, it is a seed rice field; second it is in a field where soybean samples were shown to have aerial blight that is resistant to Quadris. In this case the preferred fungicide would be Gem applied at heading to control blast. Because Gem and Quadris are so closely related chemically something else will have to be applied to control sheath blight. A section 18 for a new fungicide has been applied for, but not granted yet. A few seasons ago a similar outbreak occurred in another variety because the field had dried out. This always aggravates blast problems. A good deep flood is one of the best managerial things that can be done to at least lessen blast disease. It will not prevent it or control it, but it sure makes a difference in the severity of the disease.

On the next page are two photographs. The first one appeared in an earlier edition of Field Notes showing Command injury to Cheniere. The second one was taken Thursday in the same field. While there is a little stand loss most of the rice has recovered very well. If the entire field had been affected the same way some yield loss could have been expected, but not in this instance.



At left and below are a series of photographs of a plant brought in for identification. The person who collected it noted that it was scattered around and not likely to be a problem, but because he had never seen it before he was curious. I had not seen it before either, but because of its unique features it was relatively easy to identify. Overall appearance resembles sedges, the inflorescence spike rush and the stem is nearly square in cross section. The scientific name is *Eleocharis quadrangulata*. The genus puts it in with spike rush. The species name describes the 4 angled stem.







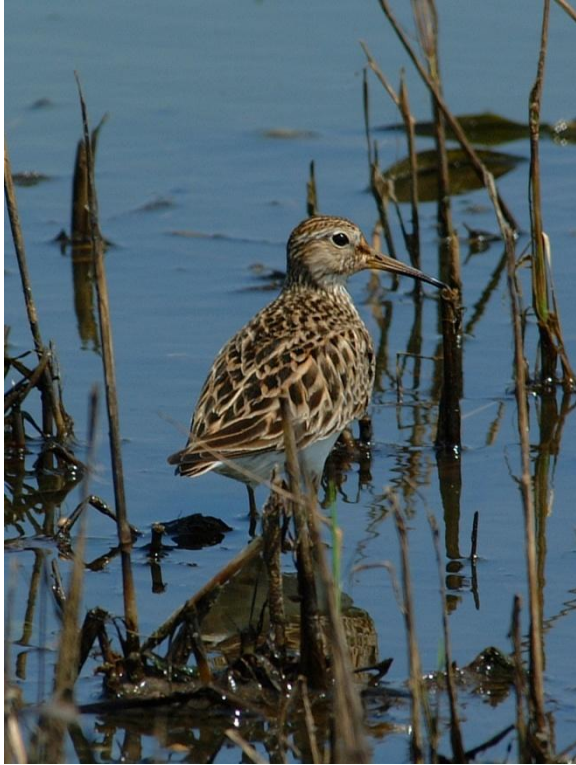
The two photographs above demonstrate the first time I have had an herbicide help in identifying a plant. The photograph at left was taken several years ago to show the diagnostic purple bands that appear only on Jungle Rice, *Echinochloa colonum*, a close relative of barnyardgrass. In fact, members of the genus *Echinochloa* are known to cross amongst themselves producing hybrids that are difficult to identify. When the purple bands appear on what looks like a barnyardgrass seedling it is Jungle Rice. However, frequently the purple bands do not show up. If you look carefully at the plant in the right hand photograph the green leaves do not show the purple banding. Only the leaves where the chlorophyll has been affected by an application of Command herbicide show the purple bands in a very striking way.

On the next page are two photographs of another member of the genus *Echinochloa*. The reason the photograph was taken was not to identify the plant, but to show what the unseasonably warm weather (the hottest March and April on record according to meteorologists) is doing to some plants. This plant is already producing an inflorescence with enough detail that a pretty good identification could be made. The second picture shows the inflorescence up close. The long awns projecting from each seed indicate this is probably *Echinochloa walteri*. So we have another close relative of barnyardgrass which can hybridize with barnyardgrass and might even key out that way. I suspect *E. walteri* because it was in Cameron parish where this species is pretty common. The awns alone are not enough to separate it from barnyardgrass because sometimes barnyardgrass has awns too and certainly hybrids of the two species will have everything from very short to very long awns. Later on a more typical plant may provide more definitive information.









Just a few birds in a draining crawfish pond. Top left, Pectoral Sandpiper; Top right, Greater Yellowlegs; Bottom left, Teal; Bottom right, herons.