



Last year I wrote the first edition of Field Notes one month earlier than this year. In spite of the much warmer weather (hottest March since record keeping began in 1895) much of the crop is later than last year. The above photo was taken in our verification field in Cameron parish and is a good example of why it is late. The intention here was to drill seed. Each time it got almost dry enough to drill, it rained. In desperation we decided to vibrashank and broadcast seed. As you can see it had gotten pretty hairy with weeds in the interim. Nearby water seeded rice kept us from hitting it with glyphosate. By the following Monday rice was up or coming up. A lot of emergence is occurring in 5 to 7 days when we normally expect 10 days to call it. By that time we could have drilled, but would have been a week behind. Based on the data generated by Dr. Linscombe last year a week later could mean a significant drop in yield. We'll just have to see how it goes.

On the next page are a few of the more prominent broadleaf weeds in the Cameron verification field. The predominant grass is barnyardgrass, however the most troublesome grass is Creeping Rivergrass. I did not bother photographing the grasses this time. The variety planted is Cheniere so weed control is going to be a challenge. We will keep you informed of our progress.



Ducksalad, *Heteranthera limosa*



Indian Toothcup, *Rotala indica*



Fringrush, *Fimbristylis* sp.



Spike Rush, *Eleocharis* sp.

We expected our verification field in Vermilion parish to test us because it has a history of Newpath resistant red rice and volunteer hybrid rice. It was fallow last year and was water seeded this year. The photo at right shows red rice seedlings that are already growing well in spite of having been worked in the water and water seeded. An overview of the field is portrayed below. Rice was a day or so from emergence. We plan to fertilize and flood as soon as possible. The only other option would have been to try to apply glyphosate and start over. Nearby rice, the late date, and poor results from trying that in the past eliminated that idea. I am afraid we will have an ugly field before it is over.

I know the field conditions are not the best for fertilizer application, especially nitrogen, but that is one of the limitations of pinpoint flood water management.



One of the great things about working outdoors and traveling throughout the state is seeing things folks in town or in offices never get a chance to see. The eagle below is one of a pair nesting within a couple hundred yards of LA 1 north of Morganza. It is apparently already well documented, but was my first long look and chance to photograph this magnificent bird.



Above is a photograph taken in a field adjacent to our verification field in Vermilion parish. For bonus points, what made the tracks? This one is really simple, but it was too interesting to ignore.

I will continue to send out Field Notes in this format to those of you who would like to receive them this way. I have been told that my methods are quickly becoming obsolete and that many mobile devices cannot handle PDF file format well. To avoid those problems I will work with Owen Taylor to post items on the blog he has set up for Louisiana crops. The blog address is: <http://louisianacrops.com>. May take a day or two to get something up.