

LOUISIANA RICE NOTES

Drs. Dustin Harrell & Don Groth

June 16, 2016

No. 2016-06

Rain, Humidity and Disease

Over the past 10 days, we have seen a lot of rain across the state, and if it was not raining, it was humid and overcast. These are perfect conditions for the development of sheath blight. With the increase in the appearance of sheath blight over the past week, Dr. Groth has provided a sheath blight disease update and management section below. The incidence of blast, however, has remained low thus far in southwest Louisiana.



Figure 1. Sheath blight in rice.

Disease Update

Severe sheath blight has been reported in several fields, mostly CL111, moving upward very rapidly, but it is hard to detect in other fields. Some hybrids have had treatable levels of sheath blight. The current weather patterns (warm and moist) favor continued sheath blight development. As the rice approaches reproductive stages, sheath blight development will increase. A few fields have already started to head. **Remember, fungicides need to be applied by 50-70% boot split (early heading)!** Some blast has been found mostly on Jupiter but other susceptible varieties may be affected. I would still plan on spraying a blast fungicide on very susceptible varieties at heading. This later application should still have good sheath blight activity. A little *Cercospora* has been reported especially on CL111, which is the most widely grown variety this year. The longer a variety has been released and the more common it becomes, diseases tend to become more severe. We are recommending 9-12 oz per acre of propiconazole to control *Cercospora*. This is higher than previously recommended, but the pathogen is starting to become tolerant of the fungicide. Temperatures remain hot but not excessively high (95° F and above) so damage from bacterial panicle blight will hopefully remain light. The strobilurin-resistant sheath blight fungus continues to spread, so we need to rotate fungicide chemistry in our rice and soybean fields. Sercadis and Elegia fungicides provide much better sheath blight control in fields where the strobilurin-resistant sheath blight fungus is present

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than the strobilurin-containing fungicides Quadris, Quilt, Stratego and Gem.

The Year of the Bug

It is said that when it comes to farming, every year is unique. We can all recall memorable cropping years in the past. Last year we can remember the continuous wet weather and overcast weather we had from the beginning of planting until well past mid-season. The end result was low first crop yields. However, we also saw record yields in the ratoon crop! In 2013 and 2014, we were blessed with favorable weather and low incidence of diseases. As a result of that we had excellent yields. The 2012 rice season can be remembered as the year blast was so devastating to us here in Louisiana. The 2010 season can be remembered as the year when we had high daytime and nighttime temperatures, which caused a high incidence of bacterial panicle blight, low milling yields, and overall lower quality crop. The 2006 season can be remembered as the year when *Cercospora*, a somewhat minor disease, became a major problem here in Louisiana.

What will 2016 be remembered for? If you ask me it might be known as the year of very high

insect pressure. The south american rice miner (SARM) has been found just about everywhere in the southwestern part of the state this year. To put it in a different way, it was hard to find a field that did not have the SARM. This type of pressure is really unprecedented. Little research exists to answer common producer questions such as, “How much yield am I going to lose from this insect?” Although the rice really looks “ragged” from the SARM, we do not believe the yield loss will be that great. Currently, we do not have a management practice to control SARM since any foliar insecticide treatment for the insect would be ineffective because the SARM, also known as the “whirl maggot,” is protected in the whirl of the plant. The SARM is typically an early-season to mid-season pest, and the rice typically outgrows the damage, so we really don’t see it during the reproductive stages of rice development. However, the SARM can still be found in the later-planted rice.



Figure 3. South American rice miner (SARM) maggot.



Figure 2. Grasshopper found in rice field.

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Now that a lot of rice has headed, or is beginning to head, across the southwest part of the state, we are beginning to see other insect pests become more prolific. I have received several calls about grasshoppers in rice. We are all familiar with grasshoppers, and their presence in rice is typically isolated to field edges. Rarely do we need to treat for them. However, I have had discussions with multiple crop consultants about the presence of very high grasshopper numbers in rice fields and not just the edges of the field. One consultant mentioned that scores of grasshoppers would just keep jumping ahead of him as we walked through the rice field. In addition to feeding on leaf tissue, these grasshoppers also seem to be feeding quite a bit on newly emerged panicles. Currently, we do not have management guidelines or thresholds for grasshoppers in rice. However, we do know that an application of a pyrethroid insecticide will take care of the grasshoppers. A judgement call on whether the pressure is high enough to justify an insecticide application will have to be made based on the judgment of the crop manager. If the rice stink bug is

also present in high numbers, and both pests could be controlled with one application, the determination to apply would be much easier.

Speaking of stink bugs, early reports are that the rice stink bugs are present in many fields. Fortunately, we do have guidelines for management of the rice stink bug. Rice stink bugs should be scouted for during the morning. During the heat of the day, the stink bugs move downward in the canopy seeking shelter from the heat. During the first two weeks of heading, the threshold for applying an insecticide treatment is 30 stink bugs per 30 sweeps of a 15-inch diameter sweep net. After that the threshold is 100 stink bugs per 100 sweeps with a sweep net. Pyrethroid insecticides do a good job controlling the pest. Karate Z and Prolex have 21-day pre-harvest intervals. Tenchu, a neonicotinoid, can also be used but cannot be used when the rice is flowering. **Orthene (Acephate) should not be used in rice to control stink bugs.**

Using GA to Improve Ratoon Rice Yields

Gibberellic acid (GA) is often used in rice to promote rapid and uniform emergence in drill-seeded rice. However, you may not be familiar with the use of GA to improve ratoon rice yields. A lot of research out of Texas has shown that it can also be beneficial in improving yields in the ratoon crop. In fact, in 14 of 17 trials conducted in Texas, the application of GA in the main crop improved ratoon yield. GA application is a recommended practice in Texas but is not yet here in Louisiana due to limited research. However, I did conduct a trial last year to evaluate if GA would improve ratoon yields and if it would improve ratoon yields when used in conjunction with stubble management. In the trial, GA was applied using a GA that has a label for use in rice (ProGibb). Two rates of the ProGibb were evaluated, 4- and 6-fl oz. The results can be seen in the slide below. Briefly, the 4-fl oz rate improved



Figure 4. Grasshopper damage to rice panicle.

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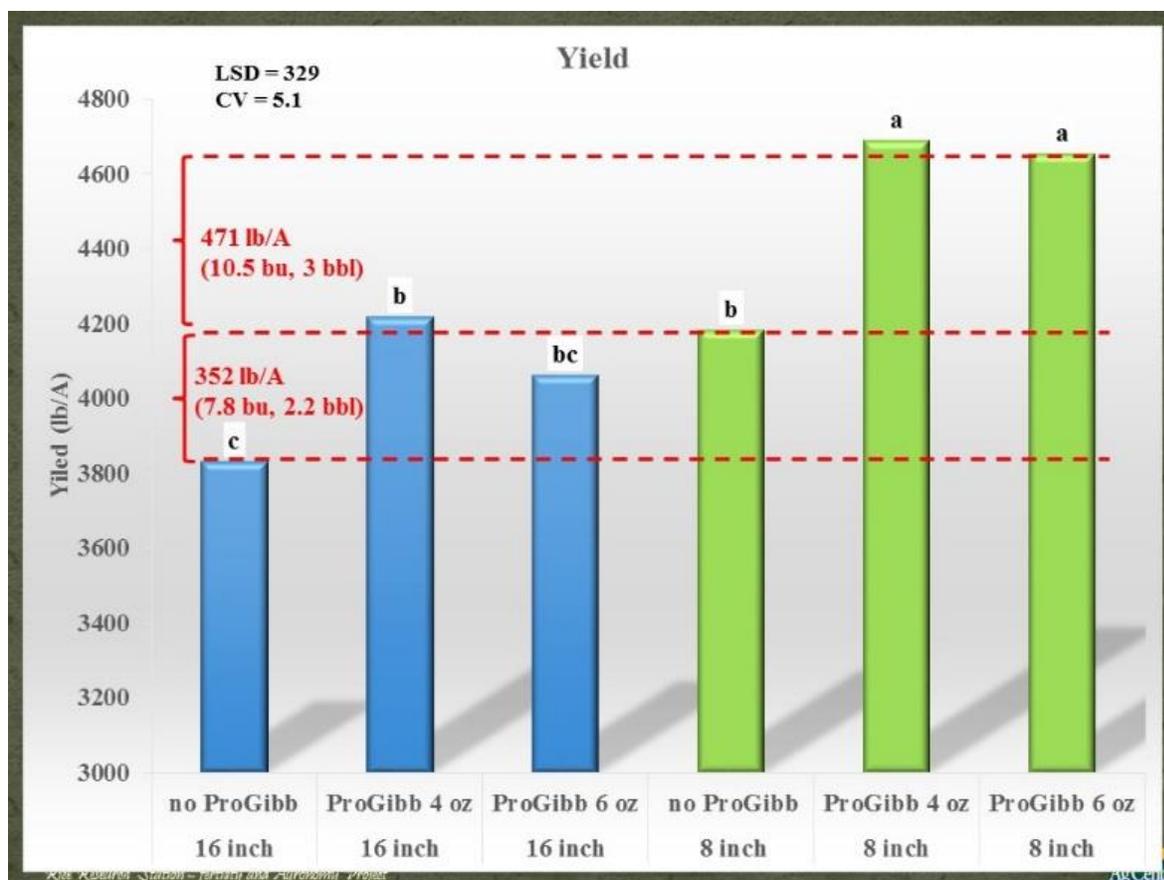


Figure 5. Evaluation of the effect of gibberellic acid (GA, applied at the soft dough stage of development in the main rice crop, on ratoon rice yield with and without stubble management. H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station, 2015.

yields by 2.2 barrels per acre when used without manipulating the stubble. An additional 3 barrels of rice per acre was observed when GA was used at the 4-fl oz rate per acre in conjunction with stubble management.

The application timing for the use of GA in the main crop for improved ratoon growth is during the soft dough stage of rice or beyond. Research has shown that applications of GA earlier than this can actually reduce main crop yields. In addition, earlier application can also increase lodging potential. The application GA can be tank mixed with a pyrethroid application for stinkbugs. Research has also shown

that this mixture does not reduce the effectiveness of the insecticide or the GA. We will continue to evaluate GA for use in improving ratoon rice yields over the next few years. If the response is consistent, the use of GA may become a recommended practice here in Louisiana, too.



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Rice Text Message Group

If you have not joined the rice text message group, please take the time to do so. This is a great way to get critical rice-related news very quickly as it occurs. In addition, rice meeting and other reminders are often sent out via text. To join, simply send a text message to this phone number: **81010** with this message: @larice.

Remember, you can keep in touch with what is going on in the Louisiana rice industry by using:

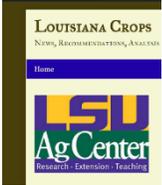


Louisiana Rice
@LouisianaRice

LSU AgCenter H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station



Louisiana Crops Website @
www.louisianacrops.com



LSU AgCenter Official Website @
www.lsuagcenter.com

Upcomming

- June 29 LSU AgCenter's H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Field Day, Crowley, LA.
- July 6 St. Landry Field Crop Tour, Palmetto, LA.
- July 13 Northeast Louisiana Rice Field Day, Oak Ridge, LA.

Additional Information

Louisiana Rice Notes is published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Louisiana. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to dharrell@agcenter.lsu.edu.

This information will also be posted to the LSU AgCenter website where additional rice information can be found. Please visit www.LSUAgCenter.com.



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