Dry window over – flash flooding possible

Louisiana’s two-week dry reprieve from the frequent rainfall events this growing season ends today (Wednesday, June 5th). A tropical disturbance now in the Gulf will move northward and bring with it a lot of rain over the next three days. In southwest Louisiana there is a moderate chance of flooding and the National Weather Service models are predicting between 4 – and 8-inches of rain in Southwest Louisiana where 75% of Louisiana’s rice crop is grown. This much rain in such a short period may submerge some rice, blowout levees, and cause slow drainage issues due to the already swollen rivers and bayous of the region. Let’s hope that is not the case. If back water flooding occurs, rice can survive somewhere around 8 days. Fortunately, I have not heard of any

Figure 1. National Weather Service rainfall predictions.

Figure 2. National Weather Service predictions of potential flooding over the next 3-days.
headed rice yet; however, we have some that will be headed by next week.

Most of the rice in the region is at green ring to half-inch internode. Mid-season N fertilization is currently being applied in several areas and we are beginning to turn our focus to disease control. There has already been reports of sheath blight and blast in the area this year.

Southern Green Stinkbug

In Acadia Parish, the Southern Green Stinkbug (SGS) has shown up in a handful of fields. The SGS is a sporadic pest in rice and has not been observed in high numbers in rice in a couple of years. Typically, the damage from the SGS in rice is isolated to small areas of the field and low populations of the pest do not warrant a pesticide application. However, in very high populations an application of a pyrethroid insecticide may be warranted.

You can see in Figure 4, taken yesterday from a Provisia rice field, that the damage from

Figure 3. Southern Green Stinkbugs (SGS).

Figure 4. Provisia rice field with southern green stinkbug damage.

Figure 5. Desiccation and necrosis of leaf tissue caused by southern green stinkbugs.
the pest has caused the rice to look brown. This brown look to the field is due to the desiccation and necrosis (death) of the leaf tissue caused by the feeding of the SGS. This damage limits the limits the relocation of nutrients and water in damaged portions of the plant.

The SGS uses its proboscis to pierce plants to feed. The SGS secretes and enzyme that liquifies the tissue and then sucks out the liquid. The SGS prefers headed grains and seeds as opposed to green tissue and typically will not go into a rice field unless other food sources, like headed rye grass or soybeans, are not available.

The SGS prefers to feed on the growing points of rice. If a field is not flooded, the crown of the plant is preferred. In flooded rice, the nodes or the newest emerging leaf are common targets. You can see in the series of pictures in Figure 6 below that feeding by the SGS on a rolled rice leaf causes the identifiable damage pattern on rice leaves.

Figure 4. This series of photos illustrates the how the southern green stinkbug (SGS) damage commonly observed in rice is caused. The first photo illustrates the damage caused by SGS damage when they feed on a rolled leaf. The second photo illustrates how the proboscis will pierce a rolled leaf. The third photo shows the damage pattern when the leaf unrolls.
Join the Louisiana Rice Text Group List

If you would like to join the Louisiana Rice Text Group, simply text @larice to 81010. To unsubscribe to the group, simply text back “unsubscribe@larice” to the group.

If you would like to get the text messages by email, send an email to larice@mail.remind.com. If you would like to unsubscribe to the email messages, simply email larice@mail.remind.com with “unsubscribe” in the subject line.

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.

Upcoming

- June 12: Acadia Parish/South Farm Field Day, Crowley, LA
- June 26: LSU AgCenter ’s H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Field Day, Crowley, LA
- July 18: Northeast Louisiana Rice Field Day, Rayville, LA

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