

Field Notes
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We have addressed the issue of when to drain on a couple of occasions and in a few formats. In all of them we stressed draining at the proper time, not too early or too late. Today we encountered a situation in one of our verification fields that added another factor to the already very subjective judgment call regarding drain timing. One of our verification fields is planted to XP723. Because the variety is a hybrid we anticipated varying maturity within each plant as a consequence of prolific tillering where the later tillers are less mature than the first. We were not surprised when we observed this, but what we did not expect was the high degree of shattering of the mature panicles. In an effort to harvest as much grain as possible we recommended draining this field a few days earlier than we might have had their not been so much grain shattering. We'll see if we were right in a couple of weeks.

Each year we are asked about the use of sodium chlorate or "salt" as a harvest aid in rice. It is the only material labeled as a harvest aid as far as I know. Dr. Pat Bollich, former Rice Research agronomist and now small time big shot in Baton Rouge, conducted research on this subject a few years ago. His work caused us to change our recommendation to the following: "Apply sodium chlorate 3 to 7 days prior to harvest at a rate of 4 to 6 lbs of active ingredient per acre. Slight reductions in head rice and/or ratoon crop yields may occur." We are reluctant to recommend the use of sodium chlorate on first crop if a ratoon or second crop is anticipated, however there is nothing on the label to prohibit it. One of the major changes was in the timing. Dr. Bollich found the greener the rice at the time of application the more likely milling was going to be affected. Even though it is a desiccant it should not be used to try to dry the rice, but should be used to dry down green weeds present at harvest to make harvest easier. This includes red rice that might be later in maturity than white rice. The desiccating effect could cause the red rice to shatter or fill grains poorly.

Below are two tables displaying equivalent rates of Stratego plus Gem and Quilt plus Quadris to be used when the combination of propiconazole (Tilt) and trifloxystrobin in Gem or azoxystrobin in Quilt is not appropriate for the disease spectrum or treatment timing. I used the equivalent rate of Tilt as the propiconazole source because it is easier for me to think in terms of ounces of Tilt per acre than ounces of propiconazole although there are several sources in the market that would work just as well. Propiconazole is recommended when smuts are a problem. Photographs of kernel smut and false smut follow the tables. **Remember, any fungicide containing propiconazole must go out before boot split.**

I developed these because I encountered a problem in a field in Richland parish and did not have all of the needed labels with me to make the conversions. In this case I wanted to maintain the 4 ounce rate of Tilt while increasing the rate of Gem or Quadris to handle sheath blight pressure that is starting early.

All rates in the tables are in ounces of product per acre, **not** active ingredient.

Tilt	+	Gem	=	Stratego	+	Gem
4 oz	+	8oz	=	14oz	+	1oz
4oz	+	9oz	=	14oz	+	2oz
4oz	+	10oz	=	14oz	+	2.8oz

Tilt	+	Quadris	=	Quilt	+	Quadris
4oz	+	9oz	=	14oz	+	5oz
4oz	+	10oz	=	14oz	+	5.7oz
4oz	+	11oz	=	14oz	+	6.7oz
4oz	+	12oz	=	14oz	+	7.7oz



Last week we were asked to take a look at a field of CLXL8 in northeast Louisiana. The hybrids have typically been much more disease resistant or tolerant than some of our conventional varieties. We picked up a little panicle blast, but the real problem was panicle blight. This is a bacterial disease for which we have no control measures and explains why fungicides are of no use against this pathogen. The high night time temperatures and high relative humidity were just what the organism needed to thrive. Since then we have had a number of reports of this problem, not surprisingly.

Below are a couple of photographs which show some of the characteristic symptoms by which panicle blight can be recognized. The tan and chocolate colored grains accompanied by green panicle branches are good diagnostic symptoms of panicle blight. If the grains were tan colored without the chocolate colored lines and the panicle branches were also tan then I would suspect blast and look for a lesion below the dead plant parts. Hope the pictures help.

