

Field Notes
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Johnny Saichuk



Leaf Scald Field View



Gramoxone injury



Leaf Scald

On the preceding page are three photographs taken in a field in Concordia parish Wednesday. The primary reason we were called to look at the field was the leaf tip burn which is clearly visible from a long distance. The consultant reported this has happened on this farm before and he has always associated it with loss of water or some sort of stress. A couple of issues back I showed similar photographs. Dr. Chuck Rush, plant pathologist, saw the photographs and other specimens were sent to him because he suspects leaf scald with somewhat atypical symptoms. I brought more leaves to him today. I'll let you know if we get confirmation of leaf scald.

In the second photograph are two additional spots on the leaf. While they resemble Stack Burn they are of gramoxone drift. When I said this to the farmer he asked when it would have been applied. I said from three days to longer. Then he admitted they had sprayed some soybeans three days prior to our visit. The third photograph is without gramoxone injury.

The two photographs below are intended to show a comparison of gramoxone injury to brown spot. This appears to have been a year for both leaf scald and brown spot. We have seen quite a bit of both. Gramoxone injury is very conspicuous and shows up quickly – within hours of application. The spots do not enlarge and protected tissue will not develop symptoms. Sometimes stackburn (*Alternaria* sp.) shows up and looks a lot like this too. Brown spot may have tan centers and symptoms will continue to develop on new leaves and spots may enlarge somewhat.



At right is a photograph I used in an earlier edition of field notes, but rather than have you look it up I decided to include it here so you can compare leaf blast symptoms to brown spot. When I take photographs I usually try to find a good typical symptom. Unfortunately, there are many instances where two or more brown spot symptoms may have coalesced (sort of melted together) and enlarged enough to create a symptom much like blast.

When you find things like that in the field look for the most common symptoms and ignore the unusual unless it is really unusual in which case contact your local county agent who can set up an appointment for us to look at the situation.

Leaf blast will almost always have an elliptical shape instead of round and tends to be between the veins of the leaf.





The two photographs above are of the easiest disease of rice to identify. It is False Smut. We most often see it in later rice. Quadris and Gem are not very effective against it so something containing propiconazole must be in the mixture to control it. Most of the time it does not cause major yield losses, but in one year I remember seeing grain samples stained an orange to pink color from the spores. In the close up you can see how the fungus replaces the grain completely. The person who brought them in was not sure of the variety. Quadris had been applied at 10 ounces per acre. No propiconazole had been applied because they do not have a history of either False Smut or Kernel Smut.