

Field Notes
June 15, 2005
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A couple of issues back I described green ring, what it meant and included a photograph illustrating it. Well, sometimes green ring or internode elongation is not green. The accumulation of chlorophyll with resultant green pigmentation of the elongating internodal tissue requires sunlight. Last week in a drilled field we found internode elongation without the usual green color so I have included a photograph of it. The key is the change in length of the internode indicating the shift from vegetative to reproductive growth of the plant. The internode undergoing elongation is below the soil line. Without sunlight there is no green pigmentation.

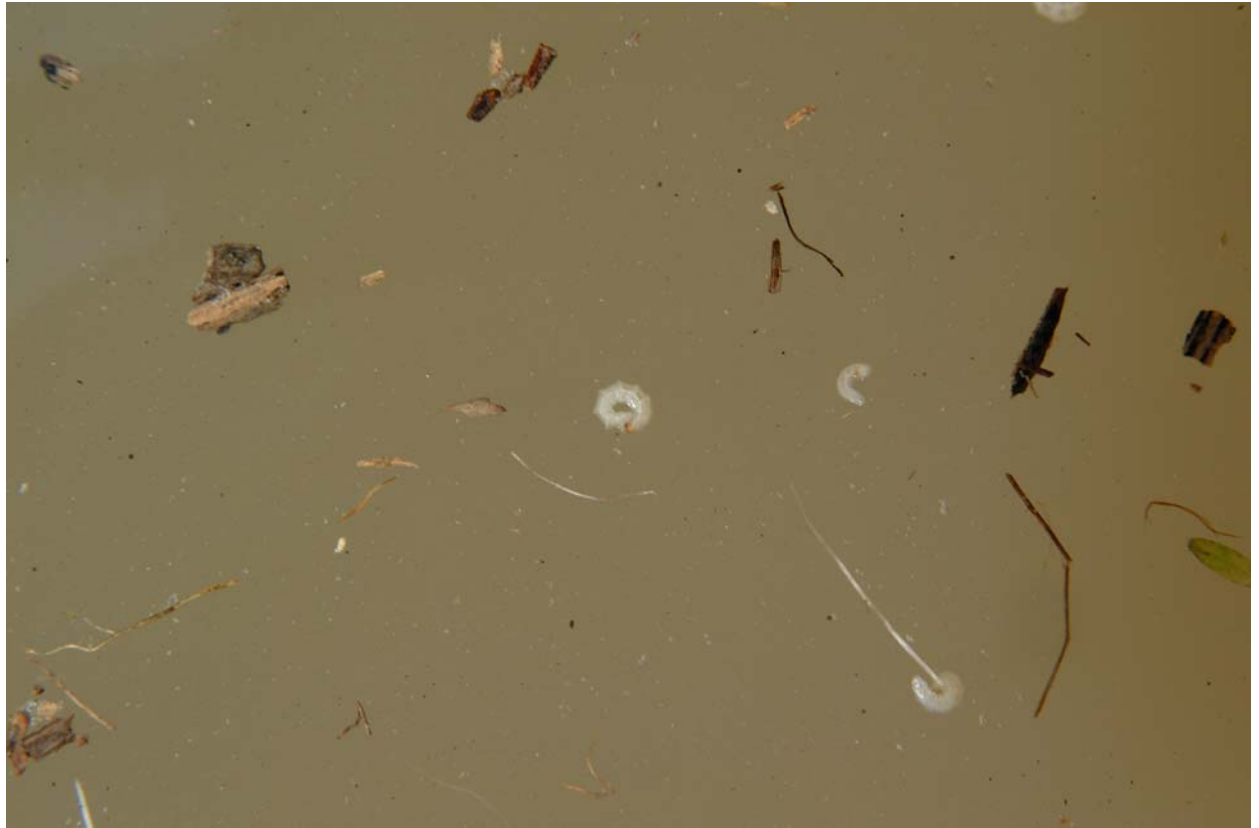
There have been a few questions regarding the discussion of the difference between **panicle initiation** and **internode elongation**. At one time we felt the two occurred simultaneously or very nearly so. This has been corrected because it does coincide in some varieties, but not in all varieties. It is a moot point since in the field panicle initiation cannot be observed, internode elongation and **panicle differentiation (PD)** can be seen.



Last week I was asked to look at a field exhibiting nutrient deficiency symptoms in an irregular pattern in the field. Because the farmer could not meet me I could not get a good history of cultural practices up to that point. The field demonstrated the need to keep our old weevil buckets around. The plants showed nutrient deficiency symptoms because they had almost no root system left to them. Furthermore, the high weevil counts, size of most of the larvae and cocoons with a new generation ready to emerge from them indicated the weevils had been there a long time. Even though it was late in the growing season (green ring to PD) the farmer was forced to drain the field. This is a perfect example of why we applied for a section 18 for carbofuran.

Following are photographs of the old weevil bucket with the 40 mesh screen, rice water weevil (RWW) larvae in a bucket sample, RWW cocoons, and an adult RWW exposed in an opened cocoon.





So far we have only recommended fungicide in one of 11 verification fields. Part of this is probably a result of stage of growth because most of our fields are at PD or nearly so. A late crop is in the making at least in the verification program. The field we recommended fungicide on will likely head some time this week. The remaining fields are clean in spite of reports of sheath blight “everywhere” from growers in the southern part of the state. We’ll see what next week brings. I got one report this morning of blast in CL161. As we encounter these in the field I will send current photographs of the symptoms.