



I thought I would lead off with an interesting problem we encountered last week. In the top left photograph the area left of the levee is the lower side of that paddy and on the right of the levee the upper side of that paddy. The field was laser leveled several years ago. There is about two inches of topsoil over a very hard silt layer in the affected area. Soil tests do not reveal any major problems. The pH is around 5.7 and all major nutrients are OK. I sent the pictures and more detail to scientists in all of the major rice producing states for their input. Most feel it is iron (Fe) or manganese (Mn) deficiency. In the group of plants photo the lower leaves are still green and symptoms are worse in upper leaves indicating an immobile or at least less mobile element. Sulfur would have caused a uniform chlorosis and nitrogen in the upper leaves.



The plant to the left was taken from the same field in which the Fe or Mn deficiency was exhibited, but in a different area. This is the type of situation that adds to confusion in diagnosing problems. In this case the symptoms were distinct so recognizing two different problems was not too difficult, but many times the differences are so subtle it is nearly impossible to figure out what happened. In this case one area of the field was hit by drift of Newpath (actually I suspect Clearpath) because the adjacent field is planted to a Clearfield variety. The symptoms are **not** at all typical of Newpath injury which is why I suspect Clearpath or a combination of herbicides rather than just Newpath. The field pattern was typical of drift and knowing about the other field helped, but it still is not clear why these symptoms were manifested as they were.

The photograph on the right shows a panicle of rice cutgrass (or at least a member of the genus *Leersia*) in flower. The white feathery structures are the stigmas and the yellowish ones are the anthers of the stamens. The anthers are the pollen bearing organs. Pollen from stamens of either this panicle or others is caught on the stigmas as the initial step in pollination. In this view the spikelets are not in real good profile, but with a little imagination and magnification you can see their resemblance to rice spikelets, hence the common name. There are actually several species of *Leersia* of which only *L. oryzoides* is correctly called rice cutgrass. Vegetatively they all are similar. All have scarious leaf margins (lots of very small teeth pointing toward the leaf base) which are the basis for the cutgrass part of the name. Because this grass is a perennial it establishes slowly, but once established is tough to control. It is most often a problem where rice and crawfish are grown sequentially for several seasons.





On the preceding page are a series of three photographs of roundleaf mud plantain taken last week in Jeff Davis parish. The first shows the most extensive population I have seen in a rice field in quite a while. The second shows the density of the population. The third shows the different leaf shapes characteristic of the plant. The narrow leaves are the first true leaves capable of floating on the water surface. The next most advanced leaves begin to take on a more heart shaped appearance. The final set of leaves are reniform or kidney shaped. This is typical of many aquatic plants. Often the submerged leaves are different from the emerged leaves and floating leaves may be different from either the submerged or floating leaves. This plant can be easily confused with duck salad in the seedling stages, but is much more difficult to control.

I hope some of these images help you in your field work. If there are topics you would like to see addressed, just let me know.