Field Notes
August 19, 2005
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This rice season is beginning to remind me of a children's movie a number of years ago called the Never Ending Story in that it feels like a never ending season. We started in March as usual and will likely finish harvesting our verification fields the first or second week of September. It is common for us to have one field left in September, but this year the fields in Avoyelles, Concordia, Natchitoches and Richland will all be harvested in September. Evangeline should be harvested either today or early next week, followed by E. Carroll and Jeff Davis next week.

What we have harvested is a mixed bag. Allen parish was the most disappointing because it looked good and was completely free of red rice. It was planted to CL 161 in which a lot of panicle blight and blast hit late. In addition, it was laser leveled hard on soil that definitely would have fit variable rate sampling and fertilization because nutrient problems were evident in some areas of the field. We harvested 32 dry barrels (bbls) or 115 bushels (bu) per acre.

Acadia had outstanding rice in some areas of the field, but thin stands in other areas leading to a yield of 40 dry bbls or 144 bu per acre. The variety was Cocodrie. Vermilion yielded a very surprising 41 dry bbls or 148 bu per acre despite heavy red rice pressure in the field of Cheniere. Our St. Landry field was the same field that produced 50 bbls (180 bu) per acre last year followed by a 20 bbl (72 bu) second crop. This year the farmer planted Cheniere again and made 48 dry bbls or 173 bu per acre with excellent test weights. It will not be second cropped this year. In Calcasieu we got our first look at a hybrid. The farmer planted XP 723 at 23 lbs per acre which caused concern about the stand. It yielded 51 dry bbls or 184 bu per acre. Test weights were very light in this field. Below is a photograph of the heads of XP 723.

We are still getting calls about problems in some fields even though most of them are nearly ripe. Below are a couple of photographs of what we think is glyphosate drift that occurred earlier in the season. As is common the drift caused no symptoms when it happened, but when the plants headed it was evident. The distorted grains, shortened panicles and twisted flag leaf are all symptoms of glyphosate injury. The field was bordered on three sides by Roundup ready crops.

In another field Dr. Eric Webster and I visited we found injury from a labeled herbicide. We believe the herbicide was either applied a little too late or at little high rate or both. Since this one could end up in litigation I will not name it.

The symptoms in the accompanying photographs are typical of that type of herbicide, but could be caused by various forms of stress. What are visible in the photographs are roots developing at the nodes. These roots are called **adventitious** roots because they develop from tissue other than another root. Brace roots in corn and sorghum are good examples of normal adventitious roots. These roots develop when nutrients accumulate at the nodes or from hormonal effects of some herbicides. I have also seen them develop when rice is flooded extremely deeply over an extended period. The other photograph shows a bud called an **axillary bud** developing. It is called an axillary bud because it develops in the leaf axil, the area between the stem and the leaf. This type of development is also associated with nutrient accumulation, hormonal effects and other factors. In this case we believed the herbicide application caused it. The result was a delay in maturity and reduction in yield.

Adventitious roots developing.

Axillary bud development.