

LOUISIANA RICE NOTES

Dr. Dustin Harrell

June 7, 2017

No. 2017-7

Short reprieve from the rain

It has been raining off and on for almost 2 weeks now. High humidity, overcast skies and intermittent rainfall events seem to be the norm lately. Luckily, it looks like we may have a few days here in Crowley without rain before it starts back up again next week.

DAY	DESCRIPTION	HIGH / LOW	PRECIP	WIND	HUMIDITY
TODAY JUN 7	Partly Cloudy	85/62	0%	N 13 mph	64%
THU JUN 8	Sunny	83/61	10%	NNE 10 mph	59%
FRI JUN 9	Sunny	83/63	10%	NNE 5 mph	59%
SAT JUN 10	Mostly Sunny	84/67	10%	ESE 7 mph	66%
SUN JUN 11	Partly Cloudy	85/74	20%	ESE 9 mph	74%
MON JUN 12	Scattered Thunderstorms	82/73	50%	SSE 12 mph	83%
TUE JUN 13	PM Thunderstorms	86/73	50%	SE 9 mph	77%
WED JUN 14	Scattered Thunderstorms	85/73	50%	SE 7 mph	80%
THU JUN 15	Scattered Thunderstorms	85/72	50%	SSE 5 mph	81%
FRI JUN 16	Scattered Thunderstorms	84/73	50%	SE 6 mph	83%
SAT JUN 17	Scattered Thunderstorms	85/73	40%	SSE 7 mph	79%
SUN JUN 18	Mostly Sunny	84/72	20%	ESE 8 mph	81%
MON JUN 19	Sunny	84/73	20%	NE 8 mph	79%
TUE JUN 20	Sunny	86/73	10%	NE 6 mph	76%
WED JUN 21	Mostly Sunny	85/74	10%	NNE 8 mph	79%

Today I wanted to show you a few pictures of what we are seeing in the field now that the rains have stopped. I have had calls on each of these problems already this week and I was able to take photos of each of the problems without even leaving the Rice Station today! Unfortunately, we can only effectively manage only one of these problems.

Sheath blight

The number one problem right now is sheath blight that is caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia solani*. The warm, overcast and humid conditions right now are perfect for this disease to develop in rice. There is a lot, and I mean a lot, of sheath blight in the area this year! Be sure to scout your fields. Sheath blight begins at the bottom of the canopy and moves upward. Therefore, you will need to open the canopy and take a good look to see if it is coming. Here is a picture of sheath blight beginning to make its way up the canopy.



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When scouting, if 30 percent of your stops are positive for the fungus, it is recommended that you use a strobilurin (Quadris, Quilt, Stratego, or Gem) or one of the two SDHI fungicides (Sercadis or Elegia) for control. If you are in an area which has developed resistance to the strobilurin fungicides, you will need to apply one of the SDHI fungicides. See last week's field notes for information on SDHI fungicide availability and recommended rates ([Louisiana Rice Notes #6](#)).

Mid-day rains causing sterility in the grain

The next picture depicts several open florets on a rice panicle. You can see that each open floret contains 6 stamens. On the end of each stamen are large white sack-like structures called anthers. The anthers contain pollen. Rice florets will open midday and the anthers will shed their pollen then. The pollen is moved by wind to other open florets on the same plant (rice is generally known as a self-pollinating plant) or nearby plants where they will be caught by the stigma (not visible in the photo). This completes the fertilization process and allows the grain to begin to form.

Midday rain, especially heavy rainfall events, can disrupt this process. In general, the pollen is washed away and is prevented from attaching to the stigmas. In the next picture, you can see several white florets in one region



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of the panicle which were probably caught in one of our recent midday rainfall events. You can also see the anthers have shriveled up because they no longer hold pollen. These open florets will not produce grain and they will be very susceptible to other secondary pathogens. If you zoom into the picture below, you will notice that only a small percentage of damaged (white areas) panicles exist on a field wide basis. You will also notice that only certain regions of the affected panicles are damaged. This is because when the florets on the rice panicle begin to flower, they flower from the top down. Not all florets open on the same day. Therefore, the resulting damage is only on a certain areas of the panicle.



South American Rice Miner (SARM)

The SARM, or leaf miners, have once again shown up in a big way the past couple of weeks. In the first picture below, you can see the typical damage from this pest. The leaves are fed on and the plant looks, for lack of a better term, ragged. Often, the SARM will feed on the leaf when the leaf is still tightly rolled. When the leaf unfurls, linear areas across the width of the leaf tend to be damaged causing the leaf to droop over and sometimes the top of the leaf falls off.



Unfortunately, since the SARM, and other leaf miner species, feed inside the leaf blade or inside the whorl of the plant, they are protected from insecticide applications. The overall yield loss from the pest is probably small even though the damage is very unsightly. Generally, the rice will outgrow the

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damaged leaves. With two weeks of rain, overcast and humid conditions, the rice has not been growing very fast and the damage from the SARM really stands out.



While the damage of the SARM is easy to see, sometimes finding the critter is much harder. In the photo above, you can see a rice



leaf that has two linear black areas at the top of the leaf. The black areas do not look like much to the naked eye. However, inside these areas are SARM larva. One of which you can see in the subsequent picture. Unfortunately, I squished the other one.

The black rice bug

The black rice bug, whose official name is *Amaurochrous dubius*, is not a big threat in rice but its damage can be commonly seen when scouting late season rice. In the following photo you can see the red, fiery color of a single rice leaf blade. This bright red-colored leaf is the signature damage from this



pest. Typically, the rest of the rice plant is healthy. When you see the red, damaged leaves like this one, follow the red leaf down to the base of the plant and you will generally find

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several of the black rice bugs. I found 8 on this one leaf! The black rice bug can be seen in the next picture and it looks similar to a rice stink bug. The bugs feed on the leaves with piercing mouth parts. Typically, the damage from this pest is minimal and very localized. Management of this pest with an insecticide application is not recommended.



Additional Information

Louisiana Rice Notes is published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Louisiana. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to dharrell@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Upcoming

- June 14 Acadia Parish/South Farm Field Day, Crowley.
- June 20 Northeast Research Station Field Day, St. Joseph.
- June 28 LSU AgCenter H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station Field Day, Crowley.
- July 6 St. Landry Field Tour, Palmetto.
- July 12 Northeast Louisiana Rice Field Day, Oak Ridge and Rayville.



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This information will also be posted to the LSU AgCenter website where additional rice information can be found. Please visit www.LSUAgCenter.com.

Remember you can keep in touch with what is going on in the Louisiana rice industry by using these resources:

	Louisiana Rice @LouisianaRice
	LSU AgCenter H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station
	Louisiana Crops Website @ www.louisianacrops.com
	LSU AgCenter Official Website @ www.lsuagcenter.com



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