Field Notes
May 11, 2009
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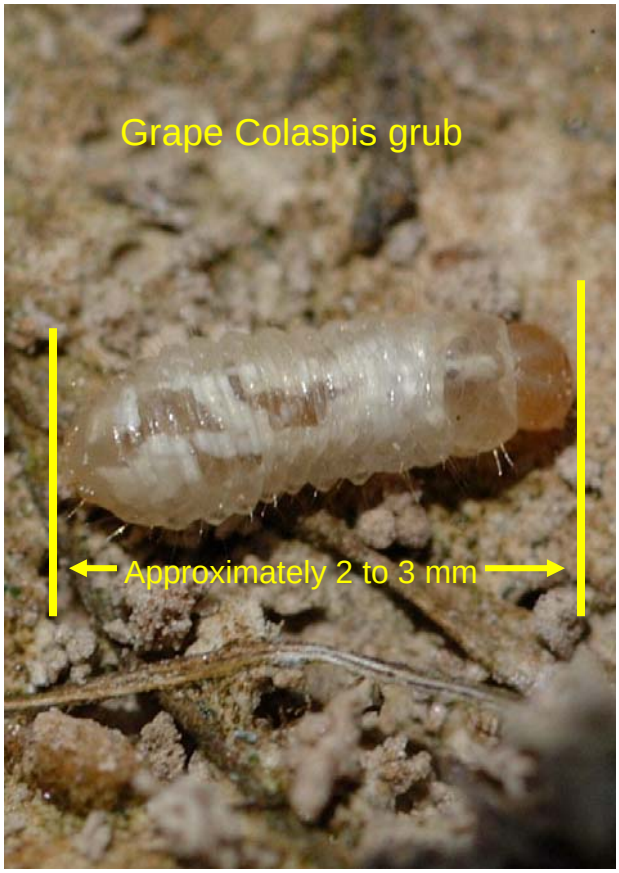
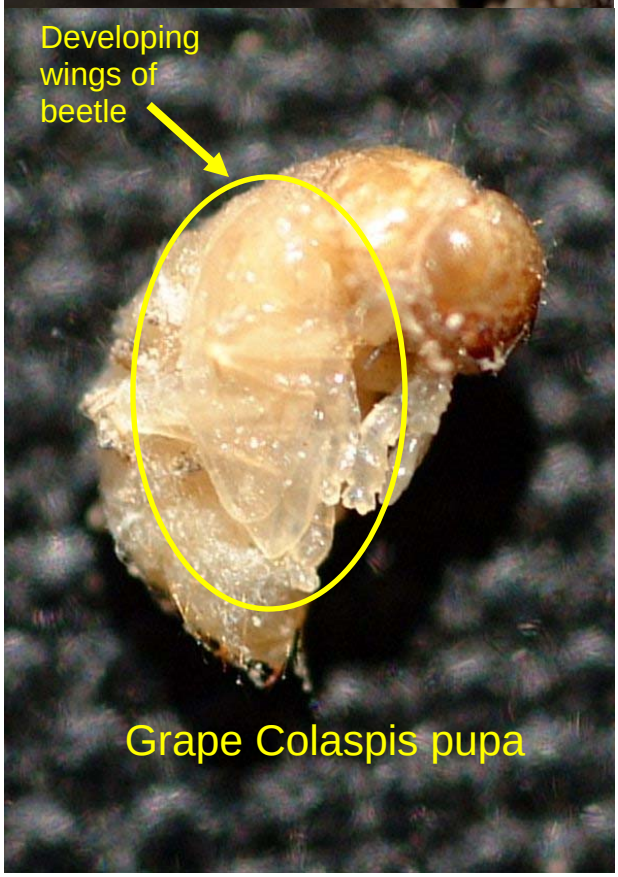
This is a special edition of Field Notes because this is a special problem for us in Louisiana. The loss of stand visible in the first two photographs started showing up last week. Field representatives Earl Garber and Mitchell Leger were called to the field last week. They started digging around the roots to see if they could discover the problem. What they found is shown on the second page. This insect is the Grape Colaspis.

It is a common pest of rice in Arkansas and was found in Louisiana around 25 years ago by Dr. Steve Linscombe. At that time each case Dr. Linscombe found was an isolated case. This time we think this field is one of several that all started showing similar symptoms late last week. While we have not confirmed it in all cases we are certain that is the problem in this field.



Unfortunately, we do not have an insecticide to recommend to you to control this pest. The only thing we can recommend is to establish a permanent flood as soon as possible. This pest has not been a problem for us in water seeded rice that is flooded early. The introduction of Clearfield rice and subsequent use of drill seeding and delaying the flood simply opened the door to this insect.

Dr. Hummel and I will visit more fields this afternoon to determine more about the distribution of this critter.

When we know more we will let you know.