

Every year we run into a few cases where green ring (internode elongation) is not green. In the photograph below a good example of that situation is shown. The plant was from a drill seeded field where the seed had been placed an inch or so deep. The first internode is beginning to elongate without the accompanying development of chlorophyll because it is below the soil surface. Without exposure to light the typical green ring of chlorophyll pigmented tissue in the elongating internode is absent. Internode elongation is the most accurate term because it is independent of the appearance of green pigment. It still signals the shift from vegetative to reproductive growth.

The photograph at right is of an early sheath blight lesion. In spite of the hot dry weather in most of the state this regular nemesis is showing up in a lot of fields. We have not found any blast or Narrow Brown Leaf Spot yet. We have recommended fungicides on several verification fields. We have varied our recommendations from propiconazole only to a mixture of 21 ounces of Quilt plus 6 ounces of Quadris to provide 6 ounces of propiconazole and 12 ounces of Quadris. Why the high rate? In this field there was very heavy sheath blight pressure and rice was expected to have 1" to 2" panicles at the time of application. Making a fungicide recommendation this early requires the higher rate to provide the longevity of protection we will need. Ideally we should have used two applications, but cannot afford them.

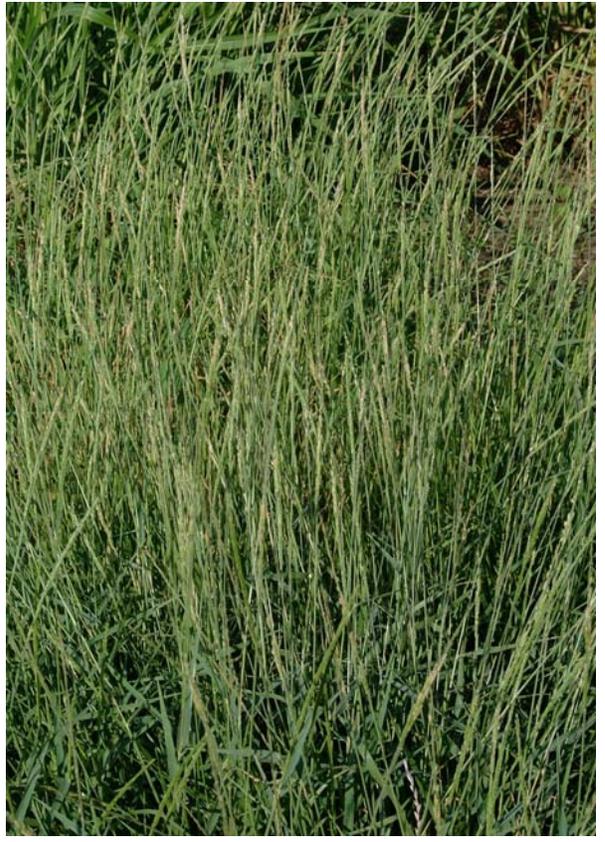




Above are two photographs of an increasing grass problem. It is Nealley sprangletop. It really is not new to Louisiana, but it is new to rice production. The earliest reference in the literature I had available was in 1885 in Texas. The first sample I recall seeing was in Vermilion parish in the early 1990's. I took it to a taxonomist who identified it then forgot about it because it was more an oddity than a problem. A few years ago we started getting calls about this grass that had a seed head that resembled a miniature vasegrass. That is pretty descriptive from a distance. Texas has been fighting the problem for several years.

The Louisiana literature describes it as infrequent in the coastal parishes. I suppose that is its source. I do know that it is extremely common on a lot of roadsides around Crowley leading me to believe glyphosate, the herbicide of choice in most roadside programs, does not control it. The same can be said of a species of Chloris (Windmill grass, Feather Finger grass and others) increasing on roadsides. It apparently does not like flooded conditions so should not be a problem in rice.

I have not had to make a recommendation for its control so I do not have any experience. Based on Dr. Webster's comments at winter meetings Ricestar HT is a little stronger on sprangletop in general than Clincher I would lean in that direction. However, I welcome any comments or suggestions based on personal experience. I'd like to know what works and what does not. This problem is not going to go away.



On the preceding page are a series of four photographs of Prairie Cupgrass (*Eriochloa contracta*). We found this in and around our verification field in Madison parish. If you examine the ligule in the first photograph it resembles that of Fall Panicum or to some degree Creeping Rivergrass because it is hairy. The heavy pubescence on the leaf and sheath should immediately remove Fall Panicum. The clear ligule separates it from Creeping Rivergrass which has a yellowish cast. There are other differences as well.

In the second photograph circle is around the plant part responsible for the common name. It is a swollen area below the spikelet that forms what resembles a cup. If you use the zoom feature in Adobe you might be able to enlarge the photograph enough to see it.

In the third photograph you can see a vague resemblance to Barnyardgrass. In the key I used the genus of Barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa*) is the closest one to this genus, *Eriochloa*.

At a distance the clump shown in the fourth photograph looks more like Ryegrass than it does Barnyardgrass. When we found it in the field, the field was still drained. After flooding it disappeared from the flooded areas so I do not expect it to be a problem in rice. I have seen it in other crops near New Iberia quite a few years ago.

When I first got into rice work we did not think iron in the water could hurt rice. Since then I have seen several cases where the accumulation of iron on the leaves as can be seen in this photograph will definitely impede the growth of rice. This farmer did what many do in northeast Louisiana to solve the problem. The first paddy is small. In that paddy the iron settles out and the water warms up. This restricts the damage to a small area rather than allow it to spread throughout a larger area. It is better to sacrifice a small area completely than have less severe, but more widespread subtle problems.

