

Field Notes  
July 14, 2008  
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The photographs on this page were taken by Dr. Don Groth and Mr. Eddie Eskew rice pathologist and county agent respectively. They show a pretty severe case of rotten neck blast in a field of CL 151.

The lighter colored areas of the field in the photograph at right provide some idea of the degree of infestation in the field. The photograph below shows the rotten neck symptoms on three panicles.

While we are not pressing the panic button we are treating this seriously and will watch other fields of CL 151. Dr. Groth is evaluating it in his disease plots on the station. By next year we should have a good idea of its reaction to blast.



The growing conditions where this occurred were ideal to bring about blast. As a number of growers with Clearfield rice have done this year, this field was not flooded until almost at green ring. It was grown on a light textured soil and no fungicide had been applied. This is as close to Dr. Groth's blast nursery as it could be in a commercial setting.

I do not know where the idea of growing rice without water until mid-season originated, but it certainly is not one of our recommended practices. In every verification field planted to a Clearfield variety we flood as soon as we make the second herbicide application and keep it that way until it is time to drain for harvest.

At right is a photograph of *Cercospora* infecting a plant at the leaf collar. I put it in this edition to illustrate the difference between it and rotten neck blast. Note the lack of tan to gray color at the center of the lesion that is visible in the blast photographs.

Below is a reminder to keep scouting for sheath blight until about 50% heading. At that point either make a fungicide application or omit it for the year. In the last couple of weeks we have seen a sudden change from little to no disease to heavy infestations. I do not think it is going to get better. Despite the fact that our verification field in Madison parish has not had any rain for a couple of weeks sheath blight is now throughout the field. We know we will use fungicide and are waiting on the right time.

Below right are two groups of panicles illustrating drain timing. On the left are panicles typical of rice growing on silt loam soils and on the right on clay soils as they would appear at drain.

