

Field Notes
July 18, 2008
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We have recommendations to control most of the insects in rice, suppress or control diseases and weeds, but we do not have any recommended procedure to control the damage seen in the first photograph in this series. This is feral hog damage in a verification field in Evangeline parish. I cannot use the language here I did when I saw it yesterday. The farmer did not feel any better.

In the first photograph on the next page is the worst case of sprangletop infestation I have ever seen. It has been sprayed three times with different herbicides. Until we get a better understanding of what is going on I do not want to name the herbicides because it may not be a chemical problem. The last application was made yesterday so we need to wait at least a week to see if any “control” is shown. There is rice under the sprangletop.

The third photograph shows a problem we encountered last week in Concordia parish. At least 90% of the plants had sheath blight on them. At first we thought that was the cause, but we found a few clean plants showing the same symptom. The flag leaf and the one immediately below it were not affected yet. From the third leaf down we saw firing beginning at the tip and progressing downward along each margin. It could be as simple as nitrogen deficiency because the farmer has had difficulty keeping water on the field. Dr. Groth did not think it was associated with disease and no insect damage was evident. We are really not sure.



