

# ARKANSAS RICE



Dr. Chuck Wilson, Dr. Rick Cartwright, and Dr. Gus Lorenz

**July 29, 2008**

**No. 2008 – 7R**

**INTRODUCTION** – This newsletter is distributed during the growing season to provide updates on rice progress and problems. If you know of someone who would like to be added to the e-mail list, please send an e-mail to: cwilson@uaex.edu.

**CROP CONDITION AND STATUS** – As we are now in the middle of July, the crop is progressing although somewhat behind normal. As of July 7, 63% of the crop is in good or excellent condition. Because of the weather conditions prior to flooding, grass control has been less than great for several fields.

According to recent estimates, Wells is still the most widely grown variety at about 25% of the acres. Clearfield rice is planted on more than 40% of the acres and hybrid rice is planted on more than 20% of the acres. The recent USDA report estimates that planted acreage to be slightly higher than 2007 at 1.351 million acres. Harvested acres are projected to be 1.345 million acres, 20,000 acres more than 2007. However, had the weather been more cooperative, I think the increase in rice acres would have been greater.

## **RICE CONSULTANTS TRAINING**

Lake Hogue - Weiner, AR

This Friday, August 1, 2008

9:00 a.m. until noon (lunch will be served)

Directions: Turn off Highway 49 (west) toward Lake Hogue (two miles north of Waldenburg, two miles south of Weiner). Plots are 1-1/2 miles down on the right, toward Lake Hogue.

## **TOPICS/SPEAKERS:**

Diseases - Rick Cartwright

Nitrogen Fertilization - Rick Norman

Weed Control - Bob Scott

Phosphorus & Potassium Fertilization - Nathan Slaton

Varieties - Chuck Wilson

## **BRING YOUR BOOTS!**

## **POTASSIUM DEFICIENCY**

Now is the time to start looking for potassium deficiency. This often is first noticed after midseason. However, sometimes, textbook symptoms are not evident. It is common to only see increased stem rot and/or brown leaf spot. These diseases typically become prevalent in potassium deficient fields. The best way to remedy these situations is to follow a sound nutrient management plan. This includes soil testing and applying recommended rates of fertilizer, particularly potassium.

Application of potassium fertilizer after the symptoms have appeared may or may not cause the plant to recover completely. The benefits depend on how soon or, more commonly, how late the application is made. As the rice nears the late boot stage, much of the yield potential associated with potassium nutrition is already established. This normally occurs during the vegetative growth stage, similar to nitrogen. Subsequently, late applications of potassium do little to improve the potassium nutrition status of the plant.

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As the rice approaches the boot stage, stem rot and brown leaf spot can become severe enough to cause substantial yield losses. While the complete yield potential can not be re-gained, some benefit may be observed from reducing the impact of these diseases. There has been some interest in applying fungicides to control these diseases. This is currently an area of current research and definitive recommendations for fungicides cannot be made at this time.



While Quadris and Stratego do have the ability to control stem rot, two problems must be overcome. First, limited research suggests that these fungicides must be applied early (soon after midseason) to achieve adequate control. Secondly, getting the fungicides through the canopy and to the stem rot lesions is a problem. This may be particularly true as some of these lesions may be below the water level. Therefore our recommendation at this time is to take care the potassium problem.

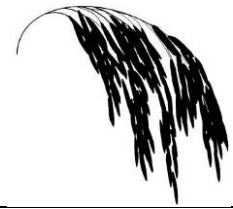
## RICE STINK BUGS

We are beginning to pick up rice stink bugs in early heading rice in many areas. We are seeing numbers well above threshold in many cases. The information below is right out of the Rice Insect Management fact sheet and should be used to guide you on sampling.

Rice fields should be scouted weekly or twice weekly beginning at 75% panicle emergence and continued for 4 weeks. Avoid scouting from mid-day through late afternoon. Use a 15 inch diameter sweep net to sample for rice stink bugs. At each sample site, make 10 consecutive sweeps to the front and sides while walking forward and swinging the net from side to side. Hold the net so that the lower half of the net is drawn through the foliage and panicles. Count the number of adults and large nymphs after each 10 sweep sample. Repeat samples at several random sites (6 or more). Avoid samples

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at field margins and in grassy weed areas. Calculate the average number of rice stink bugs per 10 sweeps. Apply insecticide if infestation is 5 or more rice stink bugs per 10 sweeps during the first two weeks after heading; or if 10 or more per 10 sweeps is found during the third and fourth week after heading. If the number of bugs is only slightly below the threshold level or if the field is very large, increase the number of samples to improve confidence in sample estimates. Samples taken during the morning hours of 8 to 11 a.m. will improve estimates of rice stink bugs.

Products recommended for control of rice stink bugs includes methyl parathion, Prolex, Karate, and Mustang Max. See the MP-144 for rates.



RSB Adult



RSB nymphs and egg mass

RSB Nymph



## FALL ARMYWORMS

Reports of heavy fall armyworm infestations are widespread across Eastern Arkansas, particularly in upland crops such as soybean and cotton. Some reports of fall armyworms have come from rice fields already this year. Fall armyworm larvae do not appear in rice fields every year, but when they do appear, it is usually during late July and early August. Larvae are normally foliage feeders but can occasionally be found on rice panicles.

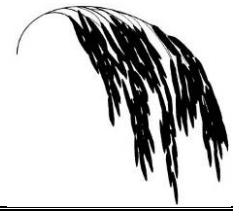
Treatment with insecticide may be considered if larvae are feeding on the flag leaf, stem or panicles. If six or more armyworms per square foot or two or more large larvae just head-cutting are found per square foot are found, fields should be treated. Feeding on leaves, other than the flag leaf, is not as important and treatment may not be necessary. The insecticides Sevin, Karate Z and methyl parathion can be used for control of fall armyworm larvae (Table 12-10). Treatment is most successful in late afternoon. If a carbamate insecticide (i.e., Sevin) is used, a waiting period of 14 days before or after propanil is recommended. Methyl parathion or

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PennCap-M may be applied 7 days before or after propanil.

## RICE RESEARCH VERIFICATION PROGRAM

(Stewart Runsick & Ralph Mazzanti)

Northern Fields

The verification fields range in growth stage from mid-season to fully headed. The Craighead County field was treated for rice stink bug last week and is above thresholds again. The Prairie and Woodruff County fields will be heading this week and will be scouted. Disease pressure has been light in the verification fields; however I have found leaf blast in the St. Francis County field of Wells. Herb Ginn in Lawrence County reports leaf blast in a field of CL 171 AR. I have heard of several fields of 161 and 171 being treated for sheath blight. The Crittenden County field of Wells has sheath blight present, but it is still low and in less than 50% of the field. The Randolph County Field had additional urea applied at a rate of 100 lbs/acre. The streaks from the equipment malfunction look a little better. The boot application will be a wait and see situation. The Lonoke County field will receive a boot application of urea this week. The Clay County field of Francis will be in the boot stage this week and a decision will need to be made on an application of Stratego for kernel smut and blast prevention. The Mississippi County field had some scattered coffeebean and Blazer was recommended.

Raptor was applied in the bottom couple of patties in Poinsett County for control of escaped red rice following two applications of Newpath. The Raptor did a good job of cleaning up some scattered amazon sprangletop (see pictures

attached). According to the weed scientists, this may have been a “good day” for the herbicide or maybe Clincher was added. At any rate, its worth mentioning. Sprangletop seems to be a problem this year especially in Clearfield rice. I did not think there was enough in this field to justify spraying just for the sprangletop. The treated area is very clean however.

The RRVP tour will be August 5<sup>th</sup>, leaving RREC at 7:30 am. Featured fields in South Arkansas include Lincoln, Jefferson, and Arkansas counties.



Light green area on left is amazon sprangletop. Right side of field sprayed with Raptor.

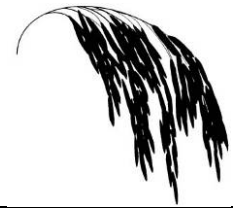


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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Rice Consultant Training** – Lake Hogue, Weiner, AR, August 1, 2008. Program begins at 9:00 am. Contact: Chuck Wilson (501-258-0210) or Rick Thompson (870-578-4490)

**Rice Field Day**, Rice Research and Extension Center, Stuttgart, AR – August 13, 2008 beginning at 7:30 am and concluding with lunch. Contact Dr. Chris Deren (870-673-2661) for more information.

### *Other Field Days of Interest*

Progeny Seeds Field Day, Wynne, AR. July 31, 2008.

Rice Tec Field Day, Harrisburg, AR August 12, 2008.

Cache River Valley Seed Field Day, Cash, AR August 20, 2008.

For more information, or other events, please send an e-mail to [cwilson@uaex.edu](mailto:cwilson@uaex.edu)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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The authors greatly appreciate the feedback and contributions of all growers, county agents, consultants, and other rice industry people.

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