

# St. Francis County **Rice News**



June 11, 2008

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**CROP CONDITION AND STATUS** – Our crop this year is running about 2-3 weeks behind normal. After experiencing more rainfall than normal in April and early May, the end of May and the first part of June have been dry. Then, we have had strong winds the past 10 days that have created problems getting fields sprayed. Now that the wind has died down, we can get our fields sprayed, fertilized and flooded.

## **CLEARFIELD RICE** Dr. Bob Scott

As the result of the Newpath and Beyond shortage, a Section 18 Crisis Exemption was granted by the Arkansas State Plant Board and EPA for Pursuit, Raptor, and Thunder herbicides for use on Clearfield rice. It only includes the products Raptor, Beyond, Newpath, Pursuit 2AS and Thunder. BASF pulled Pursuit DG and Pursuit Plus due to lack of availability.

## **ZINC & PHOSPHORUS DEFICIENCY**

Dr. Chuck Wilson

As fields begin to be flooded, we may begin to see zinc and phosphorus deficiency. With the record high prices for fertilizer, some of you will be tempted to cut corners. When this happens, high risk fields (silt loam soils, high soil pH, low soil test zinc and/or phosphorus, history of deficiency) are likely to experience problems.

Zinc deficiency typically begins soon after the flood is applied. It is usually characterized by chlorosis (yellowing) near the base of the leaf more pronounced than the leaf tips. The midrib will turn bright yellow in contrast to the dark green, and often bronzed, leaf blades.

If zinc deficiency is observed, the salvage recommendation is to drain and dry the field, apply a liquid Zn chelate at a rate of 1 lb/acre of actual zinc,

apply 100 lbs of ammonium sulfate, and re-flood when the rice begins to recover. For most liquid zinc products, this will require at least 1 gallon per acre. Be cautious of any products that are recommended at less than 1 gallon per acre. While some claims are made that 1-2 quarts of a particular product is “as good as” 1 lb of zinc, check the label carefully. If the product is 9-11% zinc, less than a gallon is not going to be sufficient.

Similar to zinc, phosphorus deficiency also generally becomes evident soon after flooding. However, the rice will typically be flooded for 10 days to 2 weeks before the deficiency is observed.

It is not quite as easy to see; the plants turn dark green (darker than normal; bluish green as it progresses), have few tillers and are stunted. Bronzing may be observed in some situations but not always. In some fields, the symptoms will fade away with age while in others, it will get worse.

The salvage recommendation is to apply 100 lbs of P as DAP or triple superphosphate in the flood. In application timing studies, we have seen some yield response to midseason P applications, but 100% yield recovery is not likely to happen when P applications are made that late.

## **RICE INSECTS** Dr. Gus Lorenz

### Grape Colaspis

As many of you know, we received a Section 18 this year for Dermacor as a seed treatment on rice for control of rice water weevil, and we have had the opportunity to observe an obvious vigor associated with the seed treatment and in some cases observed emergence of the treated rice four days prior to

emergence of untreated seed in side-by-side observations. However, our sampling of large block trials has not yielded outstanding results of control of GC with Dermacor, compared to the untreated. Where we have taken samples from treated and untreated areas of the field we see no significant differences in GC numbers. However, and most importantly, there is no doubt that the treated areas of the field have a better stand and overall plant health and vigor is far superior in the treated areas of the field compared to the untreated areas of the field. Even in fields with no GC we are seeing improved plant stand and vigor compared to the untreated check.

Whether or not your seed was treated, the question remains: If you have damage, what can you do? Although the effectiveness of this practice is questionable, the standard recommendation has been to apply fertilizer, 100 lbs of ammonium sulfate, and flush the field to stimulate root development. Because of the cost of fertilizer and fuel, this is no longer a cheap solution and may cost as much as \$40-50/acre.

**Rice Water Weevil (RWW)**

With the lateness of our rice crop it should be no surprise to anyone the potential problem looming with RWW. Our experience is that late planted rice has the potential to have RWW problems. We have received several calls and observed in several fields a higher than normal amount of RWW activity for this time of year, and we need to be vigilant on this pest in our fields as we go into permanent flood on fields. Look for leaf scarring and adults in the field. Below is the threshold developed by John Bernhardt, Research Rice Entomologist.

**Scouting** - leaf scar counts. Leaf scars are a result of adults feeding on rice leaves. Begin scouting and using leaf scar counts within 4 to 7 days after flooding. Examine only the youngest leaf for feeding scars on plants at least 6 feet from levee furrows (barrow pit or bar ditch) and avoid areas of thin stands. At each stop, inspect 40 plants and record the number of plants with a scar on the youngest leaf. If a decision cannot be made after a reasonable number of stops, rescout the field in 3 to 5 days. Do not use the leaf scar method on drill-seeded rice for more than 2 weeks after permanent flood. When the percentage of the youngest mature leaves with feeding scars exceeds approximately 60%, the number of larvae per core sample will likely reach or

exceed 10 larvae per core and justify control measures (the old treatment threshold).

**Rice Water Weevil (Adults) Insecticide Recommendations**

<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate (oz/A)</u>	<u>AI/Acre Acres/ Gal</u>
gamma-cyhalothrin (R)		0.0125-0.02
Prolex 1.25 CS	1.28-2.05 oz	62-100
Proaxis 0.5 CS	3.2-5.12 oz	25-40
lambda-cyhalothrin (R)		0.025-0.04
Karate Z 2.08 CS	1.6-2.56 oz	50-80
zeta-cypermethrin (R)		0.02-0.025
Mustang Max 0.8 EC	3.2-4.0 oz	32-40

Karate Z and Mustang Max can be safely applied before or after herbicide applications.

Drill Seeded: Apply Karate Z, Prolex Proaxis and Mustang Max within 10 days after permanent flood when adults are present.

Water Seeded: Apply Karate Z, Prolex, Proaxis and Mustang Max within 7 days after permanent flood when adults are present; a second application may be necessary 5-7 days later. Karate Z, Prolex, Proaxis and Mustang Max prevent adults from laying eggs.

Treat based on leaf scar treatment threshold using Karate for drill or water seeded.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FIELD DAY** – SREC, Rowher – July 24, 2008

**RICE CONSULTANT TRAINING** – Lake Hogue, Weiner, AR – August 1, 2008

**RICE FIELD DAY** – RREC – Stuttgart, AR – August 13, 2008



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