RICE

Keep Eye out for Blast

Now is the time to scout your fields for blast, and manage accordingly. Popular varieties rated susceptible to very susceptible, include CL 151, Francis, Jupiter, LaKast, and Roy J.

In the short term, make sure to maintain a deep flood (4 inches). Research shows this will help minimize blast pressure. Also destroy field border rice, out of the flood, which is more prone to stress and be a nursery for blast spore development. Be ready to apply fungicide as heading approaches. For light blast pressure one application at boot split may suffice. Were disease pressure may be heavier, a second application in 3-6 days may be needed. Products for control listed in the MP154, UA Disease Guide, include Quadris, GEM, Stratego, and Quilt Xcel. If you find suspect blast leaf lesions we would be happy to check them for spores under the microscope.

Managing Smuts

The smuts (Kernel & False) can be managed with a properly timed application of a triazole fungicide. The boot stage is when to time treatment to help protect developing kernels from infection.

Both smuts are more likely to be a problem on fields with a history of the disease(s), where high nitrogen rates are used, and if a susceptible variety is planted. Francis and Roy J are all rated very susceptible to kernel smut and susceptible to false smut.

Monitor Stinkbugs as Rice Begins to Head

Rice is heading or about to head and will need checked for stinkbugs weekly through maturity. According to Ron Baker, U of A Rice Verification Program Coordinator, stink bugs feed on developing kernels resulting in blanks during the milk stage of development. As stink bugs continue to feed during the dough stage of development they weaken kernels resulting in lower milling and head rice yields.

Scouting during early morning or late evening gives the most reliable estimate of stink bug levels. A 15 inch diameter sweep net should be used to assess stink bug populations. The threshold to trigger an insecticide application the first 2 weeks after 75% heading is when an average of 5 or more stink bugs are found per 10 sweeps, or when 2 or more stink bugs per square yard are present. Baker notes that once rice enters the dough stage the threshold goes up to 10 stink bugs per 10 sweeps, or when 3 or more stink bugs per square yard are present. Several locations should be checked for each field. Baker advises not to make automatic applications for control. This can wipe out beneficial insects like the long horned grasshoppers.

Insecticides listed for control of the rice stink bug in the MP 144 include Seven, Malathion, Tenchu, Prolex, Proaxis, Declare, Karate Z, and Mustang Max. Repeat treatment may be needed if stink bug numbers are high.
**SOYBEANS**

**Insect & Disease Management**

Make sure to regularly check soybeans for foliage & pod feeders. According to Dr. Glenn Studebaker, Arkansas Extension Entomologist, foliage feeding worms found in soybeans include corn earworm, soybean looper, green cloverworm, velvetbean caterpillar, garden webworm, yellow striped armyworm, beet armyworm, and fall armyworm. Before bloom, treat for worms if they cause over 40% defoliation. After bloom, treat for over 25% defoliation.

When soybeans start setting pods they should be watched closely for earworms. They prefer to feed on pods and can cause significant yield losses. Fields with plants not covering the row middles (often late planted beans) generally have the most worm pressure.

A new dynamic threshold, based upon both crop value and cost of control per acre, was implemented this year to treat for earworms in soybeans. For example, for soybeans at $10 per bushel and an insecticide treatment cost of $10 per acre, the threshold to spray is 5 earworms per 25 sweeps. Sweep deep into the canopy to get more accurate estimates of worm numbers. If you have row beans, the dynamic threshold trigger is .7 earworms per row foot at the same $10 value and $10 treatment cost. Charts for the dynamic threshold can be found in the UA Insect control guide (MP 144). Remember to only count worms that are 1/2 inch or longer (beneficials feed on the smaller worms). You should also observe plants for presence and degree of pod feeding.

Studebaker notes that several synthetic pyrethroids and carbamates are labeled for control of corn earworm. He also advises using some of the “softer insecticides” in other chemistries like Belt, Steward, and Blackhawk. They are not as harsh on beneficials. In addition, earworm resistance to pyrethroids has increased in recent years making them not as consistent for earworm control. Also listed in “other chemistry” in the UA Insect Guide, MP144, is Prevathon and Intrepid Edge.

Stink bug numbers also generally build up during August. A stink bug can feed for several weeks making dents in both yield and quality. The treatment threshold is an average of 9 stink bugs per 25 sweeps, or 1 per row foot (14,000/acre) when using a shake sheet. Studebaker notes that pyrethroids are effective on green stink bugs, but for brown stink bugs, acephate, bifenthrin, Belay, or Endigo are the effective options.

We aware that adult Kudzu bugs have been found (by Jennifer Langston, our summer helper) in Greene County. It is not likely this pest will build to high enough levels to treat, but you need to scout your fields for a build up of nymphs. The treatment threshold is 25 nymphs per 25 sweeps or 4 per row foot. They are easy to control with a pyrethroid or acephate.

We encourage you to think about scouting procedures. The goal is to estimate if a pest is present at a high enough level to cause crop damage and subsequent economic loss. In some situations a sweet net may work best to check for insects. It may be your only option on a broadcasted or drilled crop. In other situations, you may get a more reliable pest count using a shake sheet. With either method there is some variation among scouts on their sample size depending on their body size/type and gathering technique. More details about sampling can be found in the UA Soybean Production Handbook. Note that in our Greene County Pest Survey we try to report worms and stink bugs in 1000s/acre to be able to compare populations across sampling techniques. For example if we average 4 stink bugs per 25 sweeps we convert that to 6000 per acre ((4/9) x 14000).

Some soybean growers may also be considering fungicide application. The U of A Extension service does not recommend a blanket application of a fungicide unless you have disease present in the field or are in the seed production business. The main two diseases to scout for are Frogeye leaf spot and aerial web blight. Strobie resistance has been documented for some fields in Greene County treated for Frogeye. Hopefully the varieties you have planted have Frogeye resistance. Check out the UA Disease Guide, MP 154, for more details on the need to use foliar fungicides in soybeans, and products recommended.***
**GRAIN SORGHUM**

**Time to Scout for Insects**

According to Dr. Glenn Studebaker, U of A Extension Entomologist, as sorghum begins to head, you will need to check it weekly for insect pests. The first to watch for is the sorghum midge. This small fly will lay eggs in grain sorghum when it is flowering. Larvae feeding within individual kernels will cause them to blank. Treatment is recommended when an average of one adult midge per head is found laying eggs and at least 25% of the field is flowering.

Several caterpillars may feed on the developing sorghum heads. For earworms and armyworms, the threshold trigger for control is one larva (1/2 inch or longer) per head. With sorghum webworms, 5 or more per head are needed to reach treatment level.

White sugar cane aphids are starting to build in some fields. Mike Simmons with Farm Services was the first to report them in Greene County in mid-June. They can quickly develop to high levels that may reduce grain yield and quality. They secret honey dew which a black sooty mold will grow on which blocks photosynthesis. Heavy amounts of honeydew can also hinder harvest equipment.

Studebaker advises treatment level for this new pest is when 25% of plants are infested with over 50 aphids per leaf. Insecticides used against most other aphids are not effective on the white sugarcane aphid. Transform has received a section 18 for emergency use in AR. Sivanto is the other effective insecticide labeled for control.

Make sure not to confuse the white sugarcane aphid with other aphids seen on grain sorghum in Arkansas. The greenbug, corn leaf aphid, and yellow sugarcane aphid can often be found, but are rarely of economic importance. Also note that some hybrids are more tolerant to the aphid than others but should be monitored.***

**IPM Meetings/Field Days Planned**

July 21st - Greene County Agriculture Field Day

August 3rd - Soybean IPM meeting - Cotton Coop in Marmaduke

Warmest regards,

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Greene County Agriculture Field Day
Conservation Focus
July 21, 2016 @ 8:00 a.m.

8:00 am - Welcome/Intro
Adam Eades

8:05 am - Cover Crops
Brandon Davis / Tanner Johnston (Davis Farm 36.016077, -90.585094)

8:40 am - Corn Fertility Test (N, P and K Studies)
Dr. Morteza Mozaffari (Smith Farm 36.045150, -90.677956)

9:20 am - Soybean Irrigation Management Demo
Brad Massey/ Phil Horton/ Dave Freeze
(Massey Farm 36.048459, -90.726350)

10:00 am - Rice Hybrid/Variety Test
Dr. Jarrod Hardke (Wall Farm 36.025857, -90.762703)

10:40 am - Alternative Irrigation Management for Rice
Heath Crider/ Phil Horton/ Wendall Minson
(Crider Farm 36.196679, -90.744484)

11:40 am - Pipe Planner Version 3 Demonstration
Chris DeClerk (Delaplaine Seed 36.231179, -90.725797)

12:10 pm - Upper Cache River Mississippi River Basin Initiative Program Update & other Program Updates
Adam Eades / Josh Barnhill

12:30 pm - Lunch (Sponsored by the Greene, Lawrence, Clay County Conservation Districts)

Our Sponsor’s:
- Greene County Cooperative Extension
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - Center Seeds
  - Delaplaine Seed Company
  - Delta Plastics
- Clay, Greene, and Lawrence County Conservation District’s

RSVP BY JULY 14TH

We will meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Paragould USDA Farm Service Center (206 N. Rockingchair Rd). From there we will proceed to the first stop on the corner of Hwy 358 and County Road 738.

To ensure we will have enough food for everyone, go to the link below to RSVP. Please keep in mind, if your name is not on the RSVP list, there is a chance there will not be enough food.

http://www.eventbrite.com/e/greene-county-agricultural-field-day-conservation-focus-tickets-26122572317

You can also call 870-236-2446 ext. 107

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