Aphid infestations don’t usually show up in seedling rice to any great degree. Usually they start in wheat or wild hosts and move into rice. We have seen greenbug in rice in years past, but usually they are not a huge rice problem; however, one to two-leaf rice can be killed when 2-3 greenbugs feed on the plant. Larger plants can be damaged but it takes more greenbugs. Greenbugs (Fig. 1) are light green with a prominent dark green “racing stripe” down the middle of their back. You can’t miss them with a hand lens, but if you have aphids and are concerned, bring them to your local county agent for ID.

Bird cherry-oat aphids (Fig. 2) are usually green to brownish-purple and are often seen in fields, but don’t cause a problem unless they are high in numbers. The same can be said for English grain aphid (Fig. 3) and yellow sugarcane aphid. Note the cornicle (tail-pipe structures) size and color to help differentiate greenbug and English grain aphid. Note the dark coloring on posterior of the bird cherry-oat aphid.

The important part of this discussion is that you need to get out and scout your rice; small rice is vulnerable to damage. **An insecticide seed treatment of Cruiser or NipSit will control aphids in rice.** So, if you have either of these treatments, aphids should not be a problem. If you didn’t treat your rice with these products, look for aphids, and if you begin to see foliar symptomology such as yellowing/reddening of leaf tissue and stunted plants with aphids present, a foliar application of an insecticide may be needed. Products labeled for control include Declare (gamma-cyhalothrin), Karate (lambda-cyhalothrin), Mustang Max (zeta-cypermethrin). Check labels for other similar products before applying. Always read and follow the label.

**Fig. 1—Greenbug aphid**

**Fig. 2—Bird Cherry-oat aphid**

**Fig. 3 English grain aphid**
A 40 cent weekend gain took the Arkansas 2012 cash soybean market to a Monday opening average of $14.81, but the week was downhill after that before stabilizing on Friday (Figure 1). Market price bottomed out on Thursday at $14.27 before coming back 7 cents on Friday to close at $14.34, a 7 cent loss from the previous Friday closing price. The prices for the past week broke a string of three straight weeks of gains on old crop beans. Highest individual daily market price for the past week was $15.13 at Old Town/Elaine on Tuesday, one of three daily quotes in the week that topped $15.00. Low individual daily price of the week was $13.75 on Thursday at Jonesboro with Des Arc at $13.77. Individual market quotes on the last trading day found eleven of the fourteen markets above the $14.00 level. Prices ranged from a low of $13.90 at Jonesboro to $14.82 at West Memphis. The closing day price spread expanded greatly to 92 cents, a 25 cent enlargement from the previous week gap.

The New Crop Soybean Market had a less volatile week than old crop beans, trading within a 25 cent range, and ended the week 11 cents higher than the previous weekly closing average. Trading began with a Monday daily average of $12.26, 19 cents above the previous Friday closing average. Losses through Thursday dropped the statewide average to $12.01 before a rally on Friday to end the week with a $12.18 average, 11 cents over the previous Friday closing average. High individual daily market average for the week was $12.48 at Helena on Monday. The low market of the week was again reported from Jonesboro at $11.74 on Thursday. The last day of trading quotes across state markets found three of the fourteen markets under the $12.00 level. Ending prices for the week ranged from an $11.91 low at Jonesboro to a...
high of $12.40 at Helena. These quotes left the statewide closing day price range at 49 cents, unchanged from the previous end-week gap.

![Image of AR 2013 New Crop Soybean Booking Prices (April 29-May 3, 2013)](image)

Fig. 2—AR 2013 New Crop Soybean Booking Prices (April 29-May 3, 2013)

Market average prices stated in this report are unweighted averages of the state markets surveyed by NASS. Price data was based on USDA LR GR111 Arkansas Daily Grain Reports.

**Wheat disease update**

By Gene Milus, Professor, Plant Pathology-Wheat

**Stripe rust** is still increasing on susceptible varieties at locations where it blew in during the spring. The most susceptible varieties are Arcadia, Progeny 117, Progeny 185, and USG 3993. Except for a few fields, stripe rust does not appear to be having a significant impact on yield because of adult-plant resistance and one or two fungicide applications.

**Septoria leaf blotch** had been confined to lower leaves but is now moving higher up the plant and can still do a lot of damage between now and harvest. It is important to protect the flag and flag-1 leaves from infection for as long as possible during grain fill.

**Fusarium head blight (scab)** does not appear to be a threat because of low temperatures. A fungicide application specifically for head blight is not recommended at this time.

**Barley yellow dwarf** is widespread and severe in some fields. Nothing can be done to prevent losses from BYD at this time.

**Downy mildew** has become more evident in portions of fields that were flooded earlier. The only control is to prevent the flooding.

**Leaf rust** has been rumored to be present at low levels in south Arkansas, but I have not seen any or talked to anyone who has seen any.

**Flowering is the latest growth stage to apply a fungicide**, and many fields are at or near flowering. Assuming that any stripe rust has already been taken care of, an application for Septoria leaf blotch is the most likely to provide a positive economic return.
Cold, wet weather optimal for herbicide injury in rice
By Bob Scott, Professor & Extension Weed Scientist

With more wet weather and an unprecedented cold front coming through, conditions are right to see some injury from rice herbicides. One particular “no-no” is Newpath on hybrid Clearfield when conditions are like this. I would, in fact, avoid the use of ALS chemistry in general on rice until it warms up a bit. Usually, when temperatures are in the upper 70’s for at least 4-5 days in a row and warming up, I don’t see as much injury.

This being said, once it does warm up, it will be time to get started with POST applications in those fields where rice is up and get PRE’s out even in fields where rice was planted prior to the rain and cold but have not come up yet.

There have not been many major label changes for rice this year. However, the new Premix Obey from FMC (Command and Facet) has gotten some interest. If you have or think you have a problem with propanil and especially propanil + Facet resistant barnyardgrass, then the best timing for Obey in the first application to go on the field whether that is early POST or a PRE. However, using the FMC program of Command followed by Obey will allow you to get two full rates of Command out per season for grass and push the Facet component of Obey back to help on broadleaves.

It is another “not normal” year. Somebody let me know when we do have a “normal” year. After 11 seasons, I am not sure I have experienced one yet, maybe one of those back in the mid-2000s, I forget.

Rice is the most resilient crop that I work with and can handle the cold, just let it grow before we start throwing a bunch of chemicals at it also.