



Arkansas Rice Update

Drs. Jarrod Hardke & Yeshi Wamishe

July 19, 2019 No. 2019-21

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Crop Progress

“If we couldn’t laugh we would go insane, if we weren’t all crazy we would go insane.”

I’m now going to refer to 2019 as “Murray’s Year”. The year that everything that could go wrong did go wrong. Seems fitting to me. Others may have more clever names but that are unfit to print here.

Surprisingly, we were able to describe much of the briefly named Hurricane Barry as being underwhelming. Wind speeds were drastically below expectation to non-existent. The rainfall amounts eventually caught up to levels predicted but only in hot spots. Those hot spots have some substantial flooding to deal with but overall we made it through relatively well.

Some rice levees were blown despite the slow rainfall as too much is too much. At some point it can’t get any wetter, it can only get deeper. Those fields that have been submerged we must get the water much faster in the case of reproductive stage rice as it’s less forgiving than young rice.

Soybeans seem to be the hardest hit. Every field seems to have at least some soybean dead or severely injured due to the flooding and in flatter, more poorly drained areas entire fields have standing water. They’re gonna burn, baby, burn. For some, that means *another* replant. Oy.

Go, go, gadget sheath blight with all the rain though. It’s picking up speed and we need to stay in front of it. Scout and treat based on threshold and cultivar susceptibility. We can still outrun a lot of it, but you don’t know unless you look.

The weather finally got hot for a few days, but now a cool down to shocking levels is expected. We should be good overall but the low temperatures may actually be close to where problems occur. Low 60s at night in late July! Hello again 2019 season.

Table 1. Percent of acres predicted to reach 50% heading by week based on DD50 enrollment.

Date	Percentage As of 7/12/19	Percentage As of 7/19/19
July 6 – 12	9.3%	9.2%
July 13 – 19	25.1%	22.2%
July 20 – 26	28.4%	30.0%
July 27 – Aug. 2	16.8%	17.6%
Aug. 3 – 9	9.3%	9.8%
Aug. 10 – 16	5.8%	5.8%
Aug. 17 – 23	3.2%	3.3%
Aug. 24 – 30	1.5%	1.5%
Aug. 31 – Sept. 6	0.6%	0.7%

Fig. 1. Diamond in a performance trial at Rowher Research Station.



Disease Update

Sheath blight disease is favored by warm temperatures and high humidity. There is no question about the rise in temperature days of rain. The disease usually starts on the sheath from a compact fungal mass called sclerotium at

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the water line and then spreads vertically to the height of the crop and later horizontally by plant-to-plant contact. Sheath blight in some cultivars weakens the stature of the plants and can cause lodging.

Most rice fields received a lot of water from Tropical Storm Barry. It is sure humid and temperatures currently are high enough to favor the activity of the fungus. We have reports of some level of sheath blight on RT XP760 in Arkansas Co. on row rice and sheath blight reaching up to the panicle in Randolph Co. conventional rice (Fig. 2).

When sheath blight affects the upper three leaves including the flag leaf before grain fill, the impact on grain quality and yield would be high. At present weather conditions, scout more frequently and suppress the development of the pathogen with one of the recommended fungicides shown below.

Fig. 2. Sheath blight dried out the flag leaf and sclerotia formed have turned dark. These sclerotia drop back into the soil and serve as a source of inoculum for next season.



Table 1. Recommended fungicides for sheath blight disease of rice with minimum and maximum rates and active ingredients.

Fungicide	Rate oz/A	Active ingredients
Quadris	8.5-12.5	azoxystrobin
Elegia	32	flutolanil
Quilt Xcel	14-27	azoxystrobin + propiconazole
Stratego	16-19	trifloxystrobin + propiconazole
GEM RC	3.8-4.7	trifloxystrobin
Amistar Top	10-15	azoxystrobin + difenconazole
Sercadis	4.5-6.8	fluxapyroxad

Leaf blast has not been severe except in a few isolated cases. To date, leaf blast has been reported from Randolph, Lawrence, Jackson, Woodruff, Poinsett, and Monroe on Titan, Jupiter, Diamond, and CL151. Continue scouting for leaf blast and based on the history of the field, varietal susceptibility, and your management, plan for fungicide applications to protect the crop from devastating neck and panicle blast. Near 100% grain yield loss (Fig. 3) can happen if your field is left without fungicide management intervention.

Two fungicide applications are recommended; the first from late boot to 10% head spiked out from and boot and the second application when the heads are 50% to 75% spiked out from the boot. In both cases make sure the necks are still in the boot. Once the panicle necks are out of the boot, it is already too late for fungicide application. Strobilurin fungicides are the available fungicides for use in Arkansas. Except Sercadis and Elegia fungicides in the above table can be used to suppress blast from causing neck and panicle blast.

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Fig. 3. Severely affected (Roy J) by neck and panicle blast caused severe damage on grain yield.



Remember if your field has a history of kernel smut or false smut, your cultivar is susceptible and received excessive nitrogen fertilization, fungicides containing triazoles (propiconazole or difenconazole) need to be applied as protective between early boot and mid-boot stages (Fig. 4). For adequate canopy coverage, a minimum of 10 gallons of water per acre is encouraged to be used to apply the fungicides. Stand-alone fungicides such as Tilt, Bumper, Propimax, or combination fungicides such as Quilt Xcel, Amistar Top, or Stratego can be used.

Fig. 4 Early to mid-boot is the optimum timing for kernel and false smut fungicide application.



Remember these:

- Well managed fields benefit more from fungicide application.
- Fungicides applied at recommended timing and rate maximize their benefit.
- Fungicides mixed and applied using adequate volume of water provide better coverage and benefit.

Rice College Registration Closes 7/28

If you would like to attend the 2019 Rice College at the Rice Research and Extension Center on Aug. 1, sign up soon! Space is limited and the deadline is approaching next weekend. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-arkansas-rice-college-registration-64992449165>

Other Upcoming Field Days w/ Rice

- **Aug. 2** – Rice Research & Extension Center Rice Field Day.
- **Aug. 7** – Clay Co. Field Day.
- **Aug. 8** – Pine Tree Research Station Field Day.
- **Aug. 15** – Greene Co. Field Day.
- **Aug. 23** – Woodruff Co. Field Day.

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Additional Information

Arkansas Rice Updates are published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Arkansas. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to rice@uaex.edu.

This information will also be posted to the Arkansas Row Crops blog (<http://www.arkansas-crops.com/>) where additional information from Extension specialists can be found.

More information on rice production, including access to all publications and reports, can be found at <http://www.uaex.edu/rice>.

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