

Field Notes  
May 1, 2009  
Johnny Saichuk



First things first; **Ricestar HT can be used on medium grain rice.** I will not bother trying to explain it, but I have been informed I was misinformed. As a consequence, when I sent out information on medium grain rice production (because we had so many new to growing medium grain rice) I stated that it should not be used. That was wrong. It should not be used on aromatic and short grain varieties, but the label does not restrict its use on medium grain varieties. I apologize for any confusion I caused.

In the photograph below is a problem I had never seen, at least to this degree, and one that was totally unexpected. On the left is a field of **volunteer** Cheniere. On the right where you can detect a color change was Cocodrie. It is a stand good enough to keep. Unfortunately, the grower wants to plant medium grain in these fields. Our best recommendation was to apply a stiff rate of glyphosate, drill seed the medium grain, wait until just before the rice emerges and apply a second dose of glyphosate plus pendimethalin. The intention is to kill what is already emerged, then kill a second flush (if there is one) and use pendimethalin at what would be an incorrect timing to the volunteer rice. I really do not know if this will work, but could not think of anything else to do. If the medium grain had been a Clearfield variety there would be no problem. We expected this to happen with hybrids and I have received a few calls with those situations. We did not expect it to happen with conventional varieties. By the way the field was flooded all winter and they had lots of ducks. Ike gave them too much seed to eat.



The photograph at right is from the same field I showed last week with rice laying on the water surface. The combination of zinc and warmer weather really turned things around in the field. We had recommended applying zinc and keeping a shallow flood on the field in spite of the stretching of plants. The purpose of maintaining the shallow flood was to use the water to support the plants and keep them from sticking to the soil surface.

The two photographs below show what we wanted to avoid when we advised the farmer to keep the water on the field even though rice plants were stretched. In the field shown in these photographs wind kept water stacked up at the affected end forcing the farmer to finally give up and drain. Rice plants are stuck to the surface and not likely to “unstick” themselves. Flushing or rainfall might help, but most of these cases result in failed stands and replanting. If the farmer gets lucky new leaves may emerge and save the situation.





The small patch of grass in the middle of the rice plants does not look especially menacing until you take a look at the bottom photograph. The mass of roots, stolons and rhizomes below the surface indicates this is a perennial and an aggressive one at that. The plant is southern watergrass (*Luziola fluitans*). Dr. Webster and before him Drs. Sanders and Strahan have tried every rice herbicide on it without much effect and certainly no control. There are some materials that will control it, but these will also take out rice. Because this is a field planted to a Clearfield hybrid we may be looking at two applications of Newpath followed by Clincher or Ricestar. We will have to evaluate it after the Newpath applications have been made and decide where to go from there. This is in a verification field so we will monitor it on a weekly basis. We'll let you know if anything works.





Shown in the photograph at left one of the best stands of Creeping Rivergrass (*Echinochloa polystachya*) a perennial member of the same genus as barnyardgrass and jungle rice. Several years ago we tried a gallon of Roundup on it without much result. Recently, Dr. Webster assigned one of his graduate students to a study of this grass.

The area shown at left was not planted this year. Several fields surrounding this one were planted to CL161. We recommended two 6 ounce applications of Newpath at the appropriate intervals and then would evaluate it again to determine if we should consider another herbicide such as Beyond or Clincher.

According to Dr. Webster the best control is cold steel during the fallow period. The farmer intends to plow this one later when it is dry.

The broadleaf weed shown among the rice plants in the photograph at right is one of two species of Hedge Hyssop (*Gratiola* sp.). The only reason I photographed it is because this weed has usually faded away by now. The cooler temperatures have allowed it to persist much longer than it does in most years.

We found this in one of our verification fields where the rice is well into tillering with a permanent flood on it and we have not yet applied any herbicide.

We utilized a true pinpoint flood in this field. It made all of us, especially the farmer, strain a little at the beginning, but so far it is well worth the effort. If we succeed it will be the first time we have done so in the verification program.

