

Field Notes
June 3, 2008
Johnny Saichuk



Last week we showed you an application of Clincher to one of our verification fields. When we went back last week we had evidence of excellent herbicide activity. The plant at right is not an important rice weed, but because it is a large grass the symptoms are easy to show. The brownish discoloration of the rolled up leaf pulled from the top of the plant shows the growing point is affected. While this large plant might not die smaller grasses in the 3 to 5 leaf stage that exhibit this symptom are very likely to die. This is the same symptom we do not want to see in rice when we suspect herbicide drift.



Last week we found the bug shown in the photograph at left in a field in Tensas parish. The field had been dry until the night before when it received around 2 inches of rain. The bugs were on the leaves possibly because they were flushed from the soil. I do not know if they were causing any damage. We collected several and gave them to our entomologist Dr. Natalie Hummel. When she gets them identified we will let you know what they are and whether they are a pest or not. Each bug was about 3/8" long and 1/4" wide. They appear to be related to stink bugs, but I will wait on the experts.

The weed at right is becoming increasingly common in rice fields, especially reduced tillage fields. Dearl Sanders told me it is called Narrow Leaved Aster. I've never actually keyed it out but the description of *Aster tenuifolius* sure fits. We suppressed it with Newpath plus Permit in a verification field last year. When things slow down enough to take the time to look back I will have to check our records of where we have noticed it this year and what has worked best on it. It will not flower until much later in the year when it will produce small (about ¾" diameter) daisy like flowers that have lavender to white ray flowers and yellow to red disc (center) flowers.



The grass inflorescence shown at left belongs to Long Tom, *Paspalum lividum*. It is a relative of Dallisgrass, Bahiagrass, Water Paspalum, Knotgrass and others. One distinctive characteristic is the arrangement of the rames (the branches that bear the seeds); they are in a single plane. If I had been smart enough I would have taken a second photograph with the inflorescence turned 90 degrees then the idea of all of the rames being in a single plane would be obvious.

I rarely see it in a rice field because it prefers the transitional zone between the levee and the flooded field. Like the other Paspalum species it is a perennial.



The photographs above and to the right are from the same field. The field had been laser leveled. The area to the left is the **filled** area and the right is the **cut** area. The farmer had applied chicken litter to the cut area and did not have enough material to finish the field. Ignore the purplish color, the variety is a hybrid and the purplish color is normal. His fertility level was low for both phosphorus and potassium and potassium is the usual suspect on rice approaching or at green ring as was this field. Phosphorus is much more likely to show up during tillering. At this late date it is difficult to predict the benefit of applying fertilizer. We did take tissue samples, but by the time they are analyzed it will be too late. We recommended applying a moderate rate of phosphorus and potassium knowing it might be too late to realize economic benefit.





This year is the second time we have had a verification field at the location shown above and again the farmer ran plastic pipe down one side. By doing this he can flood the field uniformly. It is a 55 acre field with six paddies and is much longer than wide. If he had to “walk the water down” the top paddies would be flooded at least 3 days before the bottom and be under too much water in an effort to push the water down slope. With this system the whole field is flooded shallowly within 24 hours.

I have learned through the verification program that the single most important practice in rice production is the ability to flood and drain fields in a timely, uniform manner. Real differences in emergence, weed control and even draining for harvest can be realized by improving water management.

On the next page are two charts that may be helpful in determining fungicide use rates. According to Dr. Don Groth 6 ounces of propiconazole (Tilt on the chart) are necessary to control *Cercospora*. The varying rates of Gem and Quadris in the mixtures influence the amounts of Stratego and/or Quilt required. According to Dr. Groth the 19 ounce rate of Stratego is a good all around rate. Using 21 ounces of Quilt will require adding 3 to 4 ounces of Quadris to control sheath blight and higher rates to control blast.

<i>To Get</i>				<i>Use</i>		
Tilt	+	Gem		Stratego	+	Tilt
6oz	+	8oz		15oz	+	1.67oz
6oz	+	9oz		17oz	+	1.10oz
6oz	+	10oz		19oz	+	0.51oz

<i>To Get</i>				<i>Use</i>		
Tilt	+	Quadris		Quilt	+	Quadris
6oz	+	9oz		21oz	+	2.8 oz
6oz	+	10oz		21oz	+	3.8oz
6oz	+	11oz		21oz	+	4.8oz
6 oz	+	12 oz		21oz	+	5.8oz

Revised 5/30/08 by Johnny Saichuk