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Rice Update
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Temperatures and DD50 accumulation this week have been right at average for the week. Rains once again this week have been hit or miss. USDA reported this week that the rice crop rates as 1% very poor, 4% poor, 14% fair, 68% good, and 13% excellent. USDA also reported that 7% of our crop is heading. We are now beginning to see more rice get into the heading stages. According to the DD50 reports, this rice should be ready to harvest in the middle of August.

Sheath blight reports have been moderate. On some of the CL 131 fields, we have had to spray a fungicide before the rice reached the boot stage. CL 131 is very susceptible to sheath blight and can move up the plant at a rapid pace. Therefore, a fungicide application can be needed before the rice reaches the boot stage. We have had to treat some Cocodrie and Cheniere fields for sheath blight. Most of this rice was in the boot stage at the time of application and strobilurin plus propiconazole fungicide was used for sheath blight control and kernel smut protection. Sheath blight has been observed in Cocodrie and Cheniere fields, but has not moved up the plant as fast as in the CL 131 fields.

We have had some humid days which have favored sheath blight development. I encourage you scout your fields to know if you have sheath blight and how fast it is progressing. Scouting will help you make the best economical decision on whether to spray a fungicide or not.

To get protection from kernel smut using a propiconazole containing fungicide, the rice needs to be in the boot stage. An application before this time will often result in little if any protection.

I am beginning to see more rice stinkbugs lately. I have seen a fair amount of egg masses and an occasional adult in fields that are not heading yet. Where I have seen most of the adults has been on heading barnyardgrass. On rice that is beginning to head, I would begin to scout intensively. This is where rice stinkbug numbers are generally higher. Our threshold is 3 rice stinkbugs per 10 sweeps for the first two weeks of heading.

I have had calls on trying to mix a pyrethroid with late-boot fungicide application for rice stinkbug control. This is generally not recommended because the length of residual of the pyrethroid insecticides will not last until the rice starts to head. Therefore, using a pyrethroid will do very little for rice stinkbug control if they are not present. The only time I have ever thought about doing this is where we had a lot of escaped grass that was covered over with rice stinkbugs.

For your reference, we were denied a Section 18 for the use of Orthene in rice. According to Mo Way (Texas Entomologist), EPA turned down the application because of opposition to another organophosphate, dietary residue data and an economic analysis that determined a savings of \$46 an acre was insufficient to justify approval.

Mississippi Farm Bureau is hosting its Summer Rice Policy Meeting in Cleveland on Tuesday, July 18 at the Bolivar Ag Expo Building beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding around noon. Lunch is provided, and the meeting is open to all rice growers in the state.

If you want to be added to my direct emailing list, email me at nathanb@ext.msstate.edu. Also, feel free to contact me at 662-822-7359.