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Rice Update
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The weather this week has been fairly normal with the absence of rain in most of the Delta area. USDA reported this week that the rice crop rates as 1% very poor, 4% poor, 12% fair, 68% good, and 15% excellent. USDA also reported that 11% of our crop is heading. A good portion of the rice below Highway 82 is now entering the late boot to heading stage.

Sheath blight reports have still been moderate. Everything so far that I have seen with sheath blight has been hit or miss. Some fields have it with the disease progressing up the plant and others you can not find any lesions. Therefore, I would monitor every field closely for sheath blight. The only way that a fungicide for sheath blight control will pay for itself is when the disease is present in the field.

When applying a propiconazole containing fungicide for smut protection, the rice needs to be in the boot stage. These types of fungicides need to be applied at a 4 to 6 fl oz/A equivalent to Tilt. If I am in the early stages of boot, I tend to go with the upper end of the rate range.

Rice stinkbug numbers have not been high where more rice is heading (below Highway 82). However, I would still be keeping an eye out for them, especially with any heading rice in the upper portion of the delta. Fields that are heading in the upper delta are more isolated and stinkbugs have seem to congregate in these fields, which is different from the south delta where they have more fields to chose from and thin out. I would hope that once more rice begins to head, the number of stinkbugs will decrease as well.

One other area to look for rice stinkbugs is in fields that have escaped grass. Rice stinkbugs like to feed on the grass because it generally heads right before the rice heads. Therefore, it gives them something to feed on while waiting on the rice to head.

When scouting for rice stinkbugs, I would sample early in the morning (before 10:00 am) or late in the evening (after 5:00 pm). Rice stinkbugs move lower in the canopy during the hot part of the day, which would affect your sample numbers. Our threshold is 3 rice stinkbugs per 10 sweeps for the first two weeks of heading. Four pyrethroid insecticides are currently labeled and recommended for rice stinkbug control: Karate Z (1 gallon/50 to 80 Acres), Mustang Max (1 gallon/32 to 48 Acres), Prolex (1 gallon/62 to 100 Acres), and Proaxis (1 gallon/25 to 40 Acres).

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.

The Agronomic Crops Field Day at the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville will be this coming Thursday (July 20th) with registration beginning at 8:00 am and the general session will begin at 8:30 am. This field day will cover corn, cotton, rice and soybean. Everyone is encouraged to attend and lunch will be provided. I have attached the program for the field day so you can see the scheduled speakers and their respective topics.

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.