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Rice Update
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Crop condition as reported by USDA is 2% Poor, 14% Fair, 69% Good, and 15% Excellent. Rice will begin to head, on the rice planted earliest, next week. There is also some rice that has not been flooded, yet. Overall, this year's crop looks as good as usual this time of year. The biggest difference from last year is the lateness of the crop, which could possibly result in a lower state average yield over previous years. This will greatly depend on weather conditions late this summer and early fall.

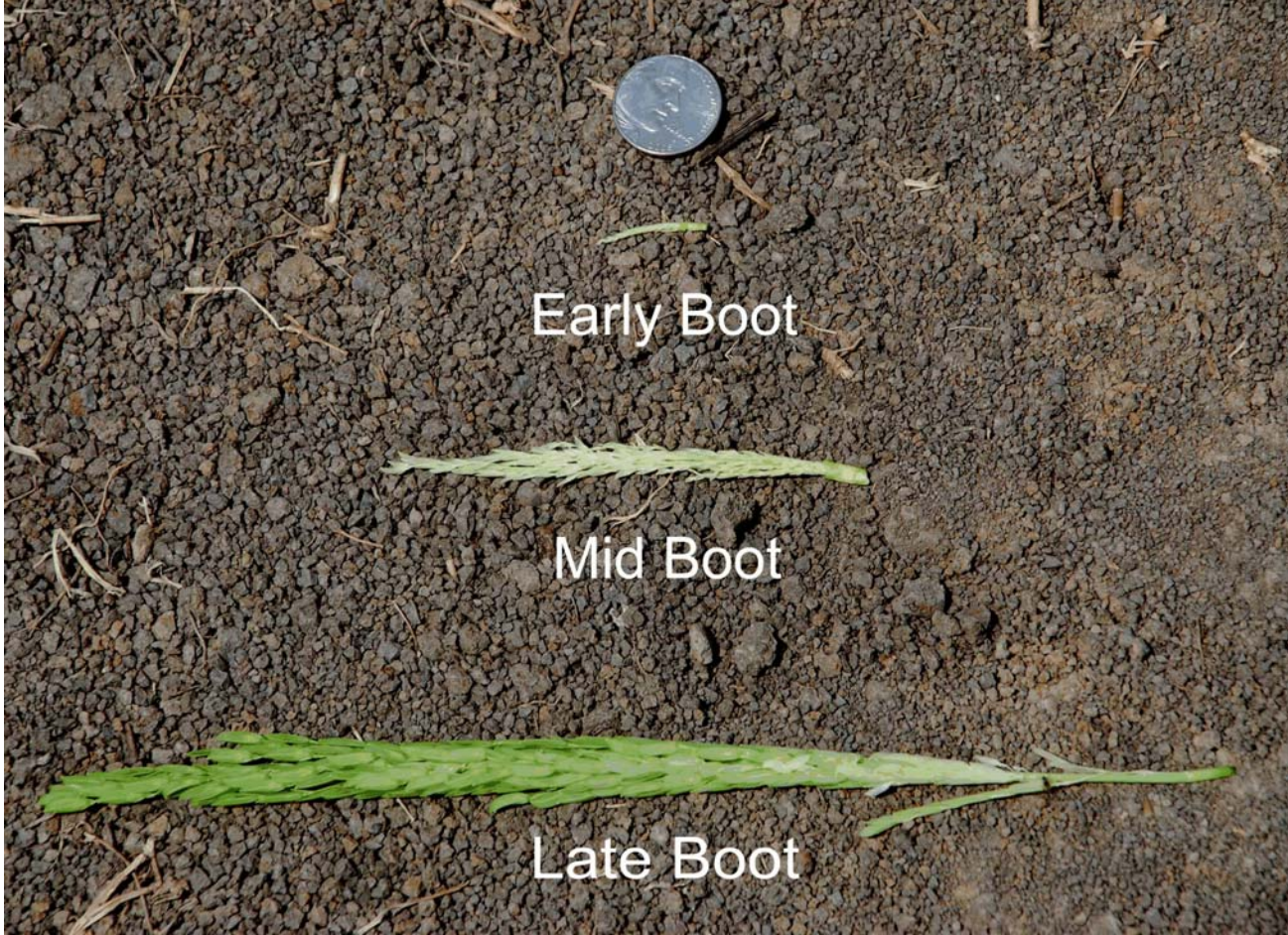
With more of the rice crop pushing into the later reproductive stages and humid conditions, sheath blight presence and progression has increased. Applying the proper fungicide at the proper timing is very critical for maximizing disease control and rice yields. There are two different types of fungicides used in rice: strobularin's and propiconazole. Strobularin (Quadris and Gem) fungicides are used for sheath blight control and blast protection. Propiconazole (Tilt) is used for kernel smut protection. In recent years, pre-mix formulations that contain both a strobularin and propiconazole (Stratego and Quilt) have been marketed. To get the maximum protection from kernel smut, a propiconazole fungicide needs to be applied during the mid-to late boot stages. This would approximately be Panicle Differentiation (PD) plus 21 days or when the panicle is 2 to 3" in length as shown in the picture below. If a propiconazole fungicide is applied before this time a higher rate would be necessary for protection.

Sheath blight can develop very quickly in varieties such as CL 161 and CL 171. If sheath blight develops before PD plus 21 days, I would recommend making split fungicide applications and hold the propiconazole containing fungicide for the last application. In trials conducted last year, it was more economically beneficial to make two applications of Quadris at 6 fl oz/A (one at PD + 14 days and one at late boot) than making one application of Quadris at 12 fl oz/A. On the last application, Tilt could be added to the Quadris or the last application could be substituted with Stratego or Quilt for kernel smut protection.

If sheath blight does not develop or progress until PD plus 21 days or later, a single application may be the best option. Fungicide options would be Stratego at 17 to 19 fl oz/A, Quilt at 21 to 28 fl oz/A or Quadris at 6 to 8 fl oz/A plus Tilt at 4 to 6 fl oz/A.

Scouting and monitoring sheath blight will be the best tool in making the most effective use of a fungicide. Guessing or going by the calendar can result in making an application too late, which would make a fungicide application less profitable.

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.



Early Boot

Mid Boot

Late Boot