

# Rice Disease Newsletter Number 14, June 27, 2013

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Sheath blight continues to move in the rice canopy due to the warm moist environment. No new reports of blast in Louisiana but Texas and Arkansas are reporting leaf blast. Below is a rice disease management checklist.

## **The rice disease management checklist (Or 10 questions I should ask before applying a fungicide)**

- 1. What is the reaction of my varieties to the major diseases?** Check the Rice Varieties & Management Tips publication. You need to know if a variety is susceptible to sheath blight, blast, bacterial panicle blight or Cercospora.
- 2. What disease is in my fields?** Get out in the field and scout! Every year is different and you need to check which disease is present and how severe it is.
- 3. What growth stage is my rice at?** Scout for growth stage at the same time you scout for disease. Timing is critical to effective disease control. You do not want to miss an important application growth stage.
- 4. Are conditions favorable for disease development?** Warm and moist conditions favor sheath blight, blast and Cercospora. Hot, above 95, favors bacterial panicle blight.
- 5. What's happening in my neighbor's fields?** Likely what's happening in their fields is happening in yours. Or if blast is in the area, it will increase disease in your fields.
- 6. Is my agronomic management plan helping or hurting disease development?** Excessive N, thick stands, rice-soybean rotations or late planting all favor rice diseases.

**7. Is my fungicide timing correct or is it too early or too late?** If you apply a fungicide too early, it will not last. If you apply it too late, especially after heading, you lose activity.

**8. Which fungicide should I use?** Propiconazole is best for Cercospora, kernel smut, false smut, and it suppresses sheath blight. Strobilurin-containing fungicides are best for blast and sheath blight. If you have or suspect you have the strobilurin resistant sheath blight fungus, you need to use the Xemium-containing fungicide.

**9. What will it cost?** Compare fungicide prices, premixes vs. tank mixes, etc., and then add the application cost.

**10. Is a fungicide justified?** You need enough disease in a field to economically justify using a fungicide. Fields with low yield potential probably do not need fungicides. Resistant or moderately resistant varieties seldom need fungicides.