

Field Notes  
April 12, 2010  
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The photograph above was taken in lower Vermilion parish last week. At the time it was the largest rice I had seen this year. It was water seeded and a pinpoint flood management system was being employed. The combination of cooler than normal temperatures and dry conditions has really delayed crop development. In almost every case I have seen where the grower flushed following dry seeding the crop is ahead of those fields where the grower decided to “wait on a rain.” Two of our verification fields were drill seeded and flushed. We should have a stand on one by this week and the other by next week.



In the last issue of Field Notes I discussed soil cracking associated with seed bed preparation in a flooded field. The photograph on the previous page was taken by Eddie Eskew. It demonstrates a classic case of “potato chipping”. On the right side of the photograph you can see the obvious curling and the white sandy surface of the ped of soil left below it.



In the photograph at left are small tubes made of soil and something like spider web stuff that insects produce. These are protective structures of midges, including the rice seed midge. Most of the time they are NOT made by the seed midge thus it is not the intent to cause alarm just because you see them. You can see them in many water seeded fields. However, if you see these **and** you are water seeding into clear water it may be a good idea to assume they are and drain as quickly as you can. This is especially true if the field has been flooded for two weeks or longer prior to seeding. To cause damage the seed midge must have standing water. Once they dry out they die. While it is possible for them to occur later they cause most of the damage to seeds in the process of germinating. I took these pictures in a water seeded, pinpoint flooded field that had a good stand. Obviously, they either are not seed midge tubes or they were not there at the time of seeding.

The photograph at right is for review. The genus *Echinochloa* which contains barnyardgrass, jungle rice and their variants is the main genus of grasses that lacks a ligule. If this was a photograph of sprangletop a conspicuous membranous ligule would be present. If it was of fall Panicum it would have a membrane fringed with hairs. Those are the three main grasses we deal with in the southern part of the state. In other parts of the state broadleaf signalgrass and crabgrass are also part of the spectrum; both have ligules. I know I ran across another grass without a ligule, but I just cannot remember it now. It was an oddball anyway.

