

Dr. Chuck Wilson, Dr. Rick Cartwright, Dr. Gus Lorenz, and Scott Stiles

July 26, 2010

No. 2010 – 13R

**INTRODUCTION** – The Arkansas Rice Newsletter is published periodically to provide updates, alerts, and recommendations for rice production in Arkansas. If you know of someone who would like to be added to the e-mail list, please send an e-mail to:

[cwilson@uaex.edu](mailto:cwilson@uaex.edu).

I have set up a blog to distribute information in addition to the newsletter. If you are interested, you can visit the blog at

<http://arkansasrice.blogspot.com>.

### CROP CONDITION AND PROGRESS –

As of July 26, the USDA reports that 57% of the crop is heading. This compares to 37% last week, 14% this time last year, and a 5-year average of 20% for this week. Arkansas rice does not normally begin heading in June nor is it normally harvested in July. We may actually see rice harvested in July this year. As of July 26, 21% of the crop is reported to be in excellent condition, 41% good, 28% fair, 12% poor, and 1% very poor.

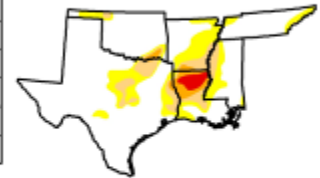
Average temperatures for the week ending July 26 were near to slightly above normal. The temperatures ranged from 1 to 5 degrees above normal. The temperatures ranged from a low of 71 degrees at several locations to a high of 101 degrees in North Little Rock. Rainfall for the week ending July 26 ranged from none at several locations to a high of 1.7 inches at Booneville. Overall, soil moisture supplies were 9% very short, 49% short, 40% adequate, and 2% surplus. The extended heat and dry weather have caused a significant strain on the irrigation capacity across the Delta. Rice fields have spots (some large, some small) that are burning because the well is unable to keep up with the dry weather. Officially,

most of Eastern and Southern Arkansas is “abnormally dry”, while Southeastern Arkansas is experiencing moderate drought.

### U.S. Drought Monitor South

July 20, 2010  
Valid 7 am EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	Total	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	72.7	27.3	12.0	4.4	1.4	0.0
Last Week (07/13/2010-14)	74.2	26.8	13.6	4.0	1.4	0.0
3 Months Ago (5/26/2010-14)	83.1	16.9	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Normal Comparable Year (2005/07/20-10)	80.3	13.7	3.5	1.2	0.0	0.0
5 Year Normal Year (2002/07/20-10)	81.9	16.1	11.3	7.3	2.4	0.7
One Year Ago (07/20/09-10)	41.9	66.1	27.3	15.0	12.0	8.3



**Intensity:**  
■ D0 Abnormally Dry    ■ D3 Drought - Extreme  
■ D1 Drought - Moderate    ■ D4 Drought - Exceptional  
■ D2 Drought - Severe

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for broad statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

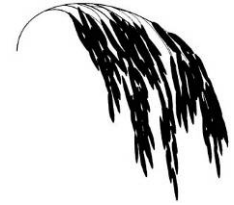
USDA  
 Released Thursday, July 22, 2010  
 Author: A. Arns, CPC/NGA

The USDA acreage report indicates that we have planted record rice acreage in Arkansas in 2010. The planted acreage is estimated at 1.681 million acres, up 13% from last year’s planted acreage of 1.486 million. The 1.681 million acres is also 38,000 over the previous record acres of 1.643 million planted in 2005. If the forecasts for good yields are realized, record production is likely. However, the heat and drought coupled with the amount of rice planted on marginal soils are not likely to result in a record yield. Very early estimates suggest that CL 151 is the most widely planted variety so far (about 23% of the acreage). The next most widely planted varieties are Rice Tec CL XL 745 (18%), Wells (17%), and Jupiter (12%). These numbers are preliminary and may change as we get more information available.

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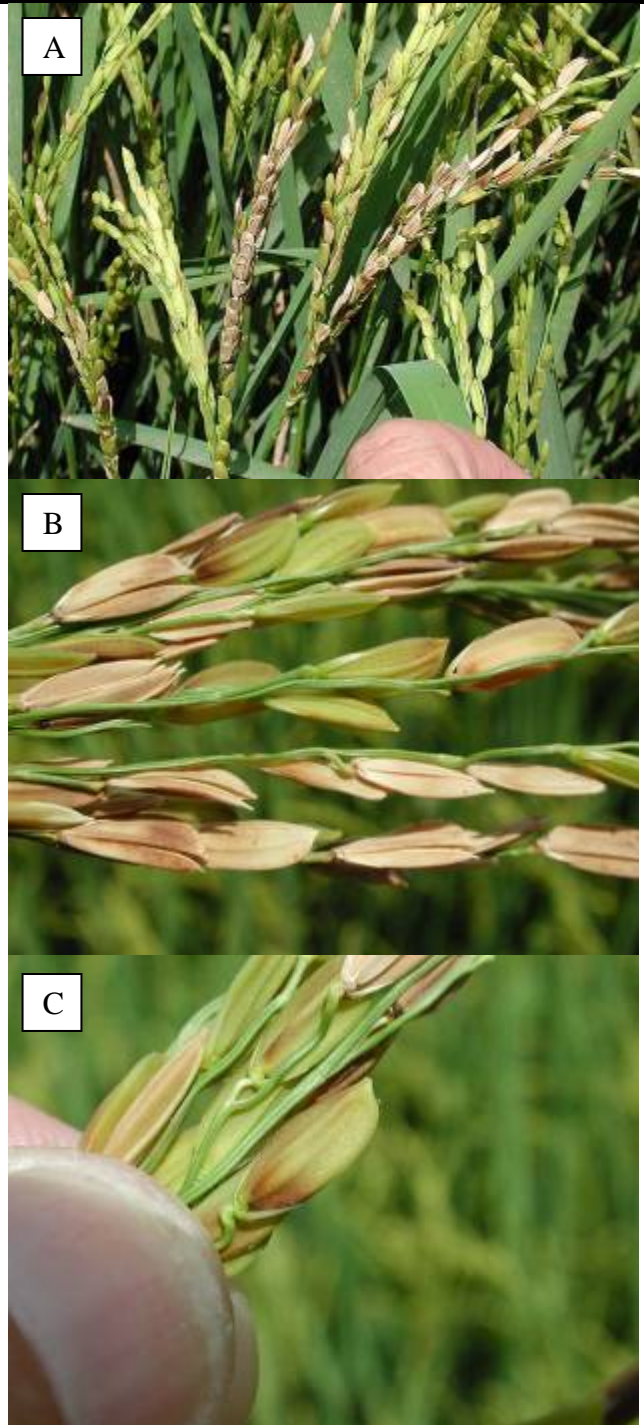
## IDENTIFYING BACTERIAL PANICLE BLIGHT AND NECK BLAST OF RICE IN ARKANSAS (Whitney Ginn and Rick Cartwright)

We are currently observing widespread neck blast of rice in Arkansas for the third year in a row, largely on the rice varieties CL 151, CL 261, Francis, Jupiter and at lower levels on Wells and CL 142. The blast problem was likely increased by frequent May rains that resulted in a lot of leaf blast in the state, followed by erratic drought patterns that made keeping a deep, consistent flood on rice fields difficult.

Recently, we also began noticing symptoms of bacterial panicle blight developing in fields of CL 261 and CL 181, and at low levels in CL 151, CL 142, CL 111 and Francis. Weather patterns in recent weeks have included very warm nights with high humidity, conditions that favor this disease. We are hopeful that bacterial panicle blight will stay at low levels, but early observations concern us that this may be a panicle blight year like we saw in 1995, 1998, and 2001 on Bengal and a few other varieties.

Distinguishing between bacterial panicle blight and early neck blast symptoms is not difficult, with some practice. The following photos illustrate the diagnostic differences.

**Bacterial Panicle Blight:** Note the cluster pattern of early infected heads (A), with a mixture of tan, green, brownish or gray kernels – but a green rachis (panicle branches)(B). At least some kernels will have a distinctly brown base (C) and inside the small kernel will be aborted and rotted at the base.



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**Neck blast of rice:** Note the “white heads” in affected field (D) and the dark lesion on the node below the infected panicle (E); dark lesions may also appear in the rachis, resulting in blighted spikelets or kernels; earlier lesions of blast can be found on leaves, collars and lower stem nodes (G); spores can be easily observed at 100X if a microscope is available (F).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Crops Field Day – Southeast Research and Extension Center – Rohwer, AR – July 29, 2010. Contact: Larry Earnest (870-644-3101)

Delta Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament – Helena Country Club – July 30, 2010. Contact: Dr. Robert Bacon (479-575-2354)

Pine Tree Biofuels Field Day – Pine Tree Branch Experiment Station – Pine Tree, AR – August 5, 2009. Contact: Roger Eason (870-633-5767)

Randolph/Lawrence County Field Tour – Pocahontas, AR – August 6, 2010. Contact: Herb Ginn (870-759-1659)

Western Clay County Crop Tour – Corning, AR – August 10, 2010. Contact Ron Baker (870-857-6875)

***Rice Field Day – Rice Research and Extension Center – Stuttgart, AR – August 11, 2010. Program starts at 7:30 a.m. Contact: Dr. Chris Deren (870-673-2661)***

Lafayette County Crop Tour – August 12, 2010. Contact Joe Vestal (870-921-4744)

St. Francis County Crop Tour – Blackfish Lake – August 24, 2010. Contact Mitch Crow (870-261-1730).

## Other Field Days

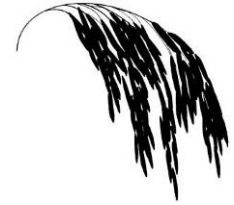
Cache River Valley Seed Field Day – Cash, AR – August 18, 2010

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# ARKANSAS RICE



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The authors greatly appreciate the feedback and contributions of all growers, county agents, consultants, and other rice industry people.

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