

Get A Head Start On Early-Season Disease And Insects In Rice

Early reports from Louisiana State University AgCenter have confirmed the presence of rice leaf blast in Louisiana fields following the mild winter across the Delta. Overwintering populations of rice blast will create added stress on rice seedlings and may require growers to take caution to ensure adequate early-season insect and disease protection.

Though reports have not been widespread, growers should remember the rice blast pathogen is spread when spores are dispersed by wind and rain, and can travel on seed. Because of this, every effort should be made to get rice off to a strong start. Growers should begin by selecting varieties with natural resistance to rice blast, especially if the field has a history of blast. In addition, planting early will help avoid heavy insect and disease pressure that can occur later in the season. However, early planting into cooler soil means seed will be more vulnerable to injury. Utilizing a seed treatment with both insect and disease protection will be an important step to maximizing yield potential.

"Rice blast typically doesn't impact fields until later in the season where foliar fungicide applications can offer protection," said Scott Martin, Syngenta technical product lead. "However, this early report of rice leaf blast will be a game-changer in some regions. Rice under early-season disease stress will be more susceptible to other stress like insect feeding and cooler temperatures," he said.

Growers who are looking for a single treatment that offers all-in-one protection at planting against rice blast, rice water weevil, grape colaspis and other yield-robbing pests can trust CruiserMaxx Rice insecticide/fungicide seed treatment. CruiserMaxx Rice, which contains azoxystrobin, is the only registered seed-delivered fungicide that has activity on early-season blast, which could make all the difference in areas where the pathogen might impact rice seedlings, explained Martin.

The robust fungicide package that Cruiser-

Maxx Rice offers complements the early-season insect protection it provides growers. Thiamethoxam, the active ingredient in Cruiser insecticide and the insecticide component of CruiserMaxx Rice, effectively protects rice seedlings from rice water weevil and grape colaspis root feeding, while also helping to increase plant stands, uniformity and vigor through the Cruiser Vigor Effect. By protecting seedlings from such pests at all points in the insect lifecycle, CruiserMaxx Rice provides protection in one convenient and proven treatment. Ultimately, the combined activity against diseases and insects helps rice seedlings overcome early-season stress. This, in turn, increases yield potential.

A strong pest management plan, in conjunction with regular scouting and careful flood management, will help growers reduce blast, rice water weevil and grape colaspis occurrence in their fields early in 2013. Good management practices like these will set rice growers up for a strong crop in 2013. Δ



Untreated vs. CrusierMaxx Rice. Treated rice on the right to visually display the Cruiser Vigor Effect on root development.



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