

Pecky Rice Doesn't Equate To Stink Bug Problem

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

The presence of pecky rice – kernels with spots – doesn't necessarily mean there's a stink bug problem in the field, said Gus Lorenz, extension entomologist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

"There is a lot of literature out there that tells us pecky rice is associated with stink bugs certainly, but also with several fungi and bacterial diseases," Lorenz, said Monday. "There are at least five or six different fungi, and probably more, that can cause this condition on rice."

Pecky rice is a concern this year because growers will receive less money when delivering their grain if there is more than 2.9 percent pecky rice in their crop – down from 5 percent.

Because growers have done such a good job keeping stink bugs under control, there appear to be other agents at work, including heat damage.

"We don't want to get overly aggressive on controlling stink bugs. Spraying too much leads to too many problems: reducing profitability for the grower, insecticide resistance, secondary insect problems, etc.," he said.

However, Lorenz said rice growers "still aren't out of the woods with stink bugs."

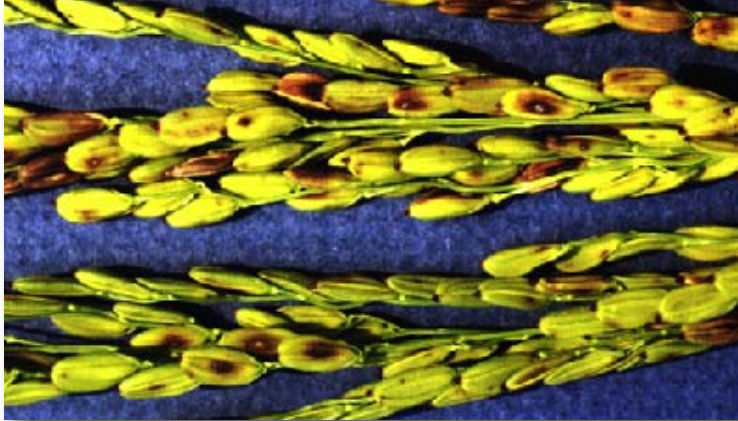
The insects prefer feeding on seed that has formed and move from field to field depending on the crop's maturity.

"The stink bugs have transitioned from hitting

fields at early heading and have moved to fields in the last two weeks of heading," he said.

In the second two weeks of heading, the action level goes to one per sweep or 10 stink bugs per 10 sweeps. Sweeping is a sampling method to determine the density of pest populations.

"Pyrethroids continue to provide excellent con-



trol, but we need more options in the future if rice stink bugs continue to be a problem," Lorenz said. "Word of warning: These late-maturing fields will be a real challenge to keep stink bugs below threshold levels. Keep scouting."

To read more on this year's stink bug populations, see Lorenz's blog article at <http://www.arkansas-crops.com/2011/08/22/pecky-rice-and-stink-bug-damage-are-they-the-same-thing/>. Δ



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