



2018 Rice Insect Losses in the United States

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Abstract

Estimated insect management costs and losses for multiple insect pests of rice during the 2018 growing season were compiled for 5 rice-producing states. Participating states included Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, accounting for approximately 90% of the rice grown in the US. Overall, insects accounted for more than \$141 million in costs and losses during 2017, averaging \$52.06 per acre. Rice water weevil and rice stink bug caused more yield loss, and cost more to control than all other insect pests across participating states.

Key Words: rice, yield loss, pest management

Introduction

Rice is a major commodity in some areas of the US. Multiple insect pests have been documented to cause yield losses in rice. Rice insect losses were first compiled in 2017 from 5 rice-producing states in the US. The participating states were Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas (Bateman et al., 2020). Estimates were made for yield loss, control costs, insecticide applications per acre for each pest, and several other factors to determine the impact insect pests had on rice in a given state. In 2018, estimates were made for the same five states to document changes in insect pressure in rice. These estimates will continue to be made annually to record changes in pest populations, management decisions, and

impacts throughout the rice-growing regions of the US.

Material and Methods

Rice growers, crop consultants, university specialists, and retailers were informally contacted by the authors about their experiences with rice insect pests during the fall of 2018. Acreage, yield, and price values were obtained from the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS USDA 2020). An estimate of pureline and hybrid rice acreage was also included. In 2018, row rice acreage was also included, which is the practice of watering rice through furrow irrigation instead of flooding. All data were processed in an Excel spreadsheet adapted from Musser et al. (2008).

Results and Discussion

All comparisons to 2017 rice insect losses are referencing Bateman et al 2020. Rice acres increased from 2.2 million acres in 2017 to 2.7 million acres (6% were row rice acres) in 2018, along with an estimated 4% increase in acres receiving an insecticide seed treatment for the participating states. All hybrid rice acres received NipsIt Inside (Clothianidin, Valent USA Corporation, Walnut Creek, CA) as a seed treatment. Growers over-treated 8% of these acres with CruiserMaxx Rice (Thiamethoxam, Syngenta Crop Protection, Greensboro, NC) and 3% of these acres with Dermacor X-100 (Corteva Crop Science, Wilmington, DE). Only 56% of the pureline rice seed planted received a seed treatment, with CruiserMaxx Rice being the predominant seed treatment used (28% of acres). A large percentage (44%) of the pureline acres did not receive a seed treatment. A 1% increase in scouted rice acreage was observed in 2018 compared to 2017. Similar to 2017, rice water weevil (*Lissorhoptrus oryzophilus*, Kuschel) caused the greatest amount of yield loss (2.51%/acre), and rice stink bug (*Oebalus pugnax*, F.) received the most foliar insecticide applications (1.16 applications/acre) in 2018. An overall decrease in yield loss was estimated in 2018 (3.17%) when compared to 2017 (3.80%), although the total costs + losses estimate increased from \$130 million in 2017 to \$141 million in 2018 due to increased rice acreage (Table 1, Appendix 1).

State Highlights

Arkansas. Rice water weevil and rice stink bug were the two most abundant pests in Arkansas in 2018. During 2018, 50% of the rice acres received a foliar application for rice stink bug, a 10% increase compared to 2017.

California. Similar to 2017, tadpole shrimp and armyworms infested the most acres in 2018 in California. A slight decrease in acres receiving foliar applications for tadpole shrimp was observed compared to 2017, and acres treated for armyworm decreased from 20% to 8% in 2018.

Louisiana. In 2018, Louisiana experienced a higher infestation of rice water weevil, rice stink bug, and stem borers compared to 2017. A large increase in acreage infested with fall armyworm was also observed, increasing from 25% in 2017 to 70% in 2018. Dermacor X-100 seed treatment was used on more acres in Louisiana than in all other states in 2018.

Mississippi. Rice stink bug and rice water weevil infested more acres than all other insect pests in 2018. A 40% decrease in fall armyworm infested acres was observed in 2018 compared to 2017. The number of foliar applications per acre for control of rice stink bug also decreased from 1.5 in 2017 to 1.25 in 2018.

Texas. High populations of rice stink bug were observed during 2018, infesting 100% of the rice acres. Rice delphacid infested acres increased from 0% in 2017 to 5% in 2018, although all of these infested acres were on the ratoon crop.

Table 1. Insect management practices for multiple rice growing states in the US for 2018.

State	Scouted*	Insecticide Seed Treatment*	Total Foliar Applications/acre	Costs+Losses†
Arkansas	85%	84%	0.860	\$62.22
California	90%	0%	0.003	\$10.17
Louisiana	60%	85%	0.370	\$48.22
Mississippi	100%	89%	1.668	\$53.95
Texas	40%	100%	0.860	\$51.66
Average (weighted by acreage)	80%	70%	0.725	\$52.06

*Percent of acreage

†Dollars per acre

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank numerous faculty, crop consultants, and extension personnel in each state who provided input into these estimates. Without their input, these estimates would not be possible.

References

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USDA NASS. 2020. United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, Data and Statistics, <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>

Appendix 3. California rice insect losses in 2018.

California in the year 2018																
Pest	Acres Infested	% Acres Infested	Acres above ET	% Acres above ET	Acres Treated	% Acres Treated	# of apps/acres treated	Cost of 1 Insecticide	% loss per acre infested	# of apps per total rice acres	cost/acre	Overall % reduction	bushel lost per pest	Loss + Cost	Loss + Cost/acre	% Total Loss + Cost
Aphids	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Billbug	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Chinch Bug	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Fall Armyworm	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Grape Colaspis	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Leafhoppers	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Longhorned Grasshopper	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Mexican Rice Borer	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Rice Delphacid	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Rice Seed Midge	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Rice Stalk Borer	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Rice Stink Bug	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Rice Water Weevil	5,060	1.0%	1,518	0.3%	1,518	0.3%	1	\$20.00	0.00	0.003	\$0.06	0.00%	0	\$30,360	\$0.06	0.6%
Shorthorned Grasshopper	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Sugarcane Borer	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Tadpole Shrimp	151,800	30.0%	126,500	25.0%	126,500	25.0%	1	\$20.00	0.00	0.250	\$5.00	0.00%	0	\$2,530,000	\$5.00	49.2%
Thrips	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
True Armyworm	50,600	10.0%	40,480	8.0%	40,480	8.0%	1	\$40.00	1.00	0.080	\$3.20	0.10%	96,743	\$2,586,627	\$5.11	50.3%
Wireworms/Other grubs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
TOTAL									0.00	0.003	\$8.26	0.10%	96,743	\$5,146,987	\$10.17	100.0%

SUMMARY DATA										
Data Input		Seed Treatment Breakdown		Yield & Management Results		Economic Results				
State	CA	Pureline	% of Acres	# of Acres	Price/Acre	Total Bushels Harvested	96,646,000	Foliar Insecticides Costs	Total	Per Acre
Year	2018		Nipst Suite				Total Bushels Lost to Insects		96,743	
Total Acres	506,000	CruiserMaxx		Percent Yield Loss	0.10%	Scouting costs	\$0	\$0.00		
% Pureline	100%	Dermacor X-100		Yield w/b Insects	191.19	Total Costs	\$4,179,560	\$8.26		
% Hybrid	0%	Untreated	100%	Ave. # Spray Applications	0.003	Yield Lost to insects	\$967,427	\$1.91		
% Acres of Row Rice	0%			Seed Treated Acres	0	Total Losses + Costs	\$5,146,987	\$10.17		
Pureline Seeding Rate lbs/acre	180	Hybrid		Scouted Acres	455,400					
Hybrid Seeding Rate lbs/acre	0	Nipst Suite								
Yield (bushels/acre)	191	CruiserMaxx								
Price/Bushel	\$10.00	Dermacor X-100								
% Acres Scouted	90%	Untreated								
Scouting Fee/scouted acre	\$0.00									
% Acres Insect Seed Trt.	0%									
Avg. Seed Trt Cost/treated ac	\$0.00									

Appendix 5. Mississippi rice insect losses in 2018.

Mississippi in the year 2018																
Pest	Acres Infested	% Acres Infested	Acres above ET	% Acres above ET	Acres Treated	% Acres Treated	# of apps/acres treated	Cost of 1 Insecticide	% loss per acre infested	# of apps per total rice acres	cost/acre	Overall % reduction	bushel lost per pest	Loss + Cost	Loss + Cost/acre	% Total Loss + Cost
Aphids	27,800	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Billbug	2,780	2.0%	2,780	2.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Chinch Bug	6,950	5.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Fall Armyworm	69,500	50.0%	34,750	25.0%	34,750	25.0%	1	\$6.00	0.25	0.250	\$1.50	0.13%	29,130	\$358,517	\$2.58	6.8%
Grape Colaspis	6,950	5.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Leafhoppers	27,800	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Longhorned Grasshopper	125,100	90.0%	6,950	5.0%	6,950	5.0%	1.1	\$8.50	0.25	0.055	\$0.47	0.23%	52,433	\$335,014	\$2.41	6.4%
Mexican Rice Borer	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Rice Delphacid	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Rice Seed Midge	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Rice Stalk Borer	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Rice Stink Bug	139,000	100.0%	118,150	85.0%	118,150	85.0%	1.25	\$8.50	1.00	1.063	\$9.03	1.00%	233,037	\$2,455,483	\$17.67	46.7%
Rice Water Weevil	132,050	95.0%	41,700	30.0%	41,700	30.0%	1	\$9.50	1.50	0.300	\$2.85	1.43%	332,077	\$2,106,349	\$15.15	40.1%
Shorthorned Grasshopper	1,390	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Sugarcane Borer	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Tadpole Shrimp	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Thrips	125,100	90.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
True Armyworm	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
Wireworms/Other grubs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.000	\$0.00	0.00%	0	\$0	\$0.00	0.0%
TOTAL	1,668	\$13.85	2.78%	646,677	\$5,255,363	\$37.81	100.0%									

SUMMARY DATA																
Data Input		Seed Treatment Breakdown				Yield & Management Results				Economic Results						
State	MS	Pureline	% Acres	# of Acres	Price/Acre	Total Bushels Harvested	22,657,000	Total Bushels Lost to Insects	646,677	Foliar Insecticides Costs	\$1,924,976	Total	Per Acre			
Year	2018	Nipsit Suite	57%	43,577	\$10.50	Percent Yield Loss	2.78%	Seed Treatment Costs	\$1,061,935	Seed Treatment Costs	\$1,061,935	\$7.64				
Total Acres	139,000	Cruiser/Maxx	31%	23,700	\$11.50	Yield w/o Insects	167.65	Scouting costs	\$1,181,500	Scouting costs	\$1,181,500	\$8.50				
% Pureline	55%	Dermacor X-100	1%	765	\$14.82	Ave. # Spray Applications	1,668	Total Costs	\$4,168,411	Total Costs	\$4,168,411	\$29.99				
% Hybrid	45%	Untreated	11%	8,410	\$0.00	Seed Treated Acres	123,710	Yield Lost to insects	\$3,330,387	Yield Lost to insects	\$3,330,387	\$23.96				
% Acres of Row Rice	2%	Hybrid				Scouted Acres	139,000	Total Losses + Costs	\$7,498,798	Total Losses + Costs	\$7,498,798	\$53.95				
Pureline Seeding Rate lbs/acre	65	Nipsit Suite	100%	62,550	\$5.00											
Hybrid Seeding Rate lbs/acre	24	Cruiser/Maxx	10%	6,255	\$7.00											
Yield (bushels/acre)	163	Dermacor X-100	2%	1,251	\$14.40											
Price/Bushel	\$5.15	Untreated	0%	0	\$0.00											
% Acres Scouted	100%															
Scouting Fee/scouted acre	\$8.50															
% Acres Insect Seed Trt.	89%															
Avg. Seed Trt Cost/treated ac	\$8.58															

