

PEST: Panicle Rice Mite (*Steneotarsonemus spinki*)

BASIC PROFILE: PRM is an introduced mite pest of rice. The mite infests the developing rice panicle causing various symptoms such as deformed panicles, browned rice hulls and leaf sheath lesions. Rice production can be severely reduced. PRM is sometimes seen along with fungal diseases. It is a very small mite with a quick life cycle. Eggs and larvae are translucent white. The main route of spread is through infested seed, and it can move short distances on equipment, water or wind.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF has conducted surveys for PRM with USDA and it was found in greenhouses and in limited rice field situations. Survey is accomplished by selecting high-risk sites (greenhouses and rice seed facilities) or through following up on shipments of infested material that may enter the state. More research is needed to determine whether PRM will establish here and be a problem for Louisiana rice.

