

Introduction to Weedy Rice and its Distribution in the Delta

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Weedy Rice Meeting
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What is weedy rice?

- Weedy rice is rice with undesirable characteristics:
 - Tall in stature
 - Seed shatters easily
 - Seed has high dormancy
- Sometimes called “red rice” because some biotypes have a red pericarp.
- In California, several biotypes of weedy rice have been identified.



Photo courtesy Brim-DeForest, UCCE

Why do we care about weedy rice?

- Because it is closely related to cultivated rice, typical rice herbicide programs will not control weedy rice.
- While weedy rice is NOT a quarantine pest, research from southern states indicates that potential **yield declines** can reach 60 percent under severe infestations.
- Additionally, if weedy rice contaminates cultivated rice in drying and storage, extra sorting may be required to prevent **quality impacts**.

How can we identify weedy rice?

- Before heading, weedy rice is often mistaken for watergrass because it grows taller than the cultivated variety.
- I have observed that weedy rice vegetation is a lime green color in full light.
- I have also observed that watergrass (and barnyardgrass) will head sooner than weedy rice.
- However, the best way to determine whether a suspicious plant is weedy rice is to observe the leaf collar anatomy.



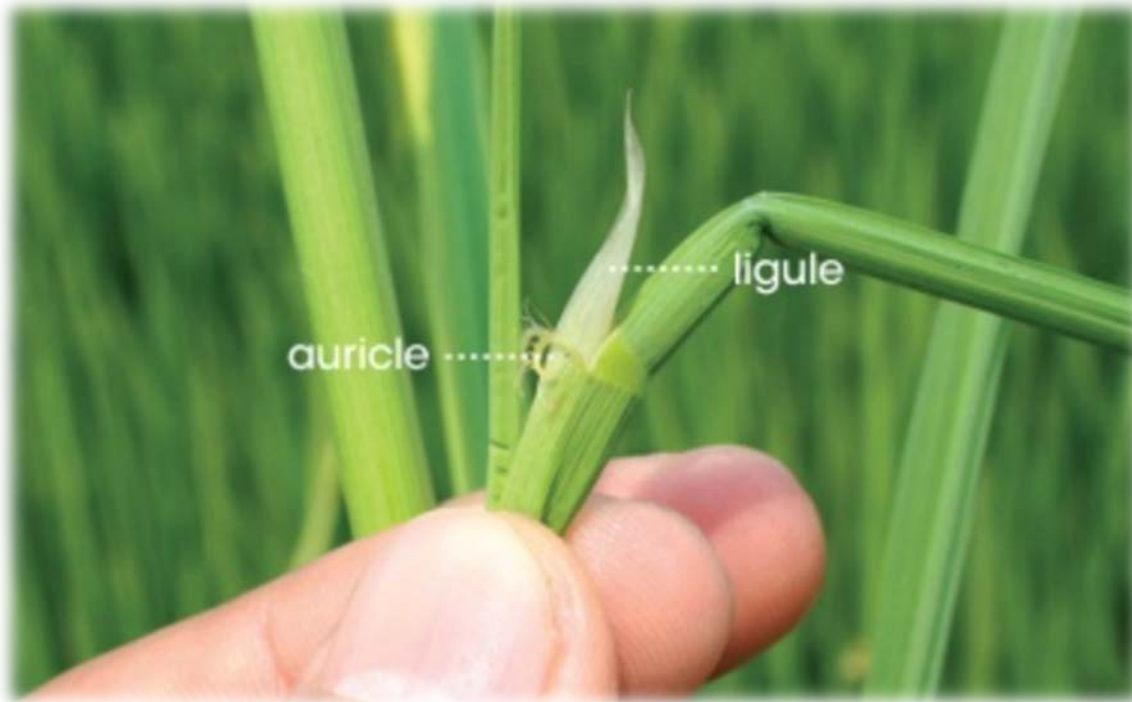


Rice (either cultivated or weedy) will have a ligule and auricles



Weedy rice
(just like
cultivated rice)
has both a
ligule and
auricles.
Watergrass
has neither.

Watergrass does NOT have a ligule or auricles



Photos courtesy <https://caweedyrice.com/>

What is the distribution of weedy rice?

- In the Delta, we first identified weedy rice in 2016.
- Since then, it has been observed on a few farms at varying levels of infestation from mild to moderate to severe.
- If we add up the acreage of all the fields in the Delta where we have observed weedy rice, it would total about 1000 acres.
- Every 5 years, UCCE conducts a regional survey to understand the distribution of weedy rice and severity of infestation.

Questions?

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<http://ucanr.edu/sites/deltacrops/>

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