



## In This Issue

- Upcoming Meetings
- Meet our New Rice Advisor!
- Emerging Weed Issues
- Useful Websites
- Rice Conservation Program
- Testing for Suspended Herbicide Resistance

## 2016 California Rice Field Day August 31, 2016

The annual Rice Field Day will be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2016, at the Rice Experiment Station (RES), Biggs, California. Rice Field Day is sponsored by the California Cooperative Rice Research Foundation (CCRRF) and the University of California (UC). More information can be found at: [www.crrf.org](http://www.crrf.org).

TIME	ACTIVITY
<b>7:30 - 8:30 A.M.</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b> <i>Posters and Demonstrations</i>
<b>8:30 - 9:15 A.M.</b>	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b> <i>CCRRF Annual Membership Meeting</i> <i>Rice Research Trust Report</i> <i>California Rice Industry Award</i>
<b>9:30 – NOON</b>	<b>FIELD TOURS OF RICE RESEARCH</b> <i>Variety Improvement</i> <i>Insects and Control</i> <i>Disease Resistance</i> <i>Weeds and Control</i>
<b>12:00 – NOON</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>

The RES is located at 955 Butte City Highway (Hwy. 162), approximately 2½ miles west of Highway 99 north of Biggs, California. For more information, call 530-868-5481. **\*\*Credit for CEUs submitted\*\***

## Rice Weed Course September 16, 2016

This one-day course will include training on: 1) emerging weed problems, such as red rice and winged primrose willow; 2) planning an herbicide program for susceptible and herbicide-resistant weeds; 3) hands-on early weed identification; and 4) field component on new and standard herbicide programs. Stay tuned for the program agenda in August 'Rice Notes' with registration information or call Whitney at 530-822-7515! **\*\*Credit for CEUs will be submitted\*\***

**Whitney Brim-DeForest**  
UCCE Farm Advisor  
Sutter, Yuba, Sacramento  
and Placer Counties

## Meet Our New Rice Advisor in Sutter, Yuba, Placer and Sacramento Counties

Whitney Brim-DeForest is the newest addition to the UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor rice team. She will be based out of the Sutter-Yuba Office, but will serve Placer and Sacramento counties as well.

She holds a Ph.D. in Horticulture and Agronomy and an M.S. in International Agricultural Development (both from UC Davis), and a double B.A. in Biology and Music from Brown University. Before starting her graduate work, she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, West Africa, for three years, where she worked with growers in a variety of crops, including rice, sorghum, corn, and cowpeas. Since 2012, she has worked at the Rice Experiment Station in Biggs, CA, managing the field trials for the UC Weed Science program in rice.



### *Why do you want to work in Cooperative Extension?*

I really enjoy being out and about in the field, talking to growers and PCA's. I prefer doing research that can have an immediate impact, that results in new tools and information that growers' can use in their own fields. I find that I learn a lot from growers' and PCA's, as they are in the fields every day, and are often the best at identifying the potential implications of a research idea--the risks and benefits to growers.

### *What is your background?*

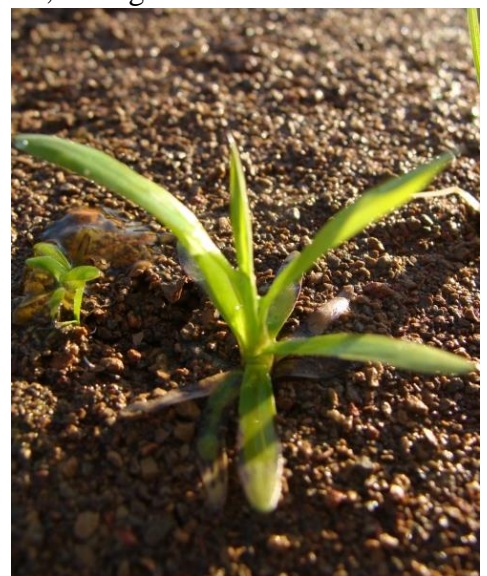
I am a weed scientist by training, and so far, my research has been primarily focused on weed agroecology: the interaction of weeds with the rice field environment. Since I started at UC Davis, I worked first with Dr. Albert Fischer and then with Dr. Kassim Al-Khatib at the Rice Experiment Station (RES) in Biggs, where I managed the weed science field trials. During my time at the RES, through the herbicide-resistant weed testing program, I met many growers and PCA's and I am looking forward to meeting more of you!



*Weed control plots at the annual Rice Field Day at the California Rice Experiment Station in Biggs, CA.*

### *What are your research and outreach plans for the future?*

This season, I plan to spend time getting to know Sutter, Yuba, Placer and Sacramento growers and PCA's, and to familiarize myself with the location of your farms, fields, and places of work. I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible, so that I can begin understanding the issues that you identify as the most important.



*Close-up of ducksalad emerging in the greenhouse.*

Some of my future outreach ideas include a rice-specific workshop on weed management and identification and some videos on weed identification and seed collection. With the other farm advisors, I will be involved in research on the emerging weed issues, including red rice and the winged primrose willow. Currently, I am involved in research focusing on identifying and managing herbicide resistance, since that is a concern for many rice growers. Over the next 1 to 2 years, this will include surveying and screening for resistant populations in growers' fields.

Feel free to contact me at any time, at the Sutter-Yuba Office, at 530-822-7515, on my cell at 541-292-1553, or by email at [wbrimdeforest@ucanr.edu](mailto:wbrimdeforest@ucanr.edu)

---

## Emerging Weed Issues

*Whitney Brim-DeForest, UCCE Farm Advisor, Sutter, Yuba, Sacramento and Placer Counties*  
*Luis Espino, UCCE Farm Advisor, Colusa and Glenn Counties*

### Weedy Red Rice

Weedy red rice was originally found in California in 2003, but growers were able to eradicate it. It has been spotted again this year, in 15 fields in Butte and Glenn counties. Although it has not been found in Sutter, Yuba, Placer and Sacramento counties, we should be monitoring for it in our fields. If the infestations are spotted early, they are easy to manage.

It may be difficult to spot in the field before heading, as it is the same species of rice as our California varieties. The easiest way to tell it apart from our rice is to look at the size of the plant. It should be bigger than normal rice plants and may look somewhat similar to watergrass, as it often has many tillers.

Weedy red rice will have some defining characteristics that can help you to distinguish it from watergrass and your rice variety:



*Red rice in a rice field, around panicle initiation*  
*(photo credit: Luis Espino and Larry Strand, UCCE)*

- Leaves of red rice are pubescent (hairy on the underside), whereas all of our medium grain varieties are not pubescent
- Watergrass has no ligule but red rice has a ligule:



*Red rice ligule (photo credit: Luis Espino and Larry Strand, UCCE)*

- Red rice often has long awns in comparison to normal rice varieties:



*Red rice with long awns (left) and California medium grain variety with short awns (right).  
(photo credit: Luis Espino and Larry Strand, UCCE)*

- Red rice has a reddish color when milled:



*Milled red rice with reddish color (left) and milled California medium grain variety (right)  
(photo credit: Luis Espino and Larry Strand, UCCE)*

**If you suspect you may have weedy red rice in your field, please call Whitney Brim-DeForest at the UCCE Sutter-Yuba Office (530-822-7515), Luis Espino at the UCCE Colusa Office (530-458-0570), or Cass Muters at the UCCE Butte Office (530-518-7201). This weed is of great economic and agronomic importance to California rice growers, and we need to contain it as quickly as possible.**

### **Winged Primrose Willow**

The winged primrose willow (WPW) was recently upgraded to a Category A pest by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) this year, meaning that it is subject to enforcement action if found in a field. Its presence in a seed field also disqualifies that field from seed production.

Be on the lookout for WPW, especially as you begin to prepare for harvest. If it germinated early in the season, it will start flowering in July or August, so the big, yellow flowers should be easy to spot if you have it in your field. It tends to grow in drained areas, or along field margins (levees, irrigation ditches, etc.) At this point in time, it has only been located in Butte County. However, the seed pods, roots, and stems can float, so until it is eradicated, there is a chance that it could end up in other areas. It propagates by seed, but parts of stems or roots can re-grow into plants.

The only means of dealing with it when it is large is by pulling it out and disposing of it. Herbicide applications are effective when the weed is small. If it is found in a field in Sutter, Yuba, Placer or Sacramento counties, please contact Whitney Brim-DeForest (UCCE Farm Advisor) or the county Ag Commissioner for instructions on how to properly spray or dispose of the plants, to ensure that the seeds or plant parts are not spread.

**All photos by Luis Espino and Larry Strand, UCCE**





*Winged Primrose Willow flower (note the four petals)*



### Useful Websites

University of California Rice Online: [www.rice.ucanr.edu](http://www.rice.ucanr.edu)

The UCANR Rice group has put together a website that now provides resources on a variety of topics related to rice production in California. New tools include the Phosphorous Fertilizer Budget and Application Calculator, as well as the Rice Degree Day Model. If you need assistance with the website or more information on how to use the tools, feel free to contact Whitney ([wbrimdeforest@ucanr.edu](mailto:wbrimdeforest@ucanr.edu)) to arrange a time to go over the website together. Stay tuned for videos later in the summer!

UC RICE BLOG: [www.ucanr.edu/blogs/riceblog](http://www.ucanr.edu/blogs/riceblog)

The UCCE rice advisors post timely information on the blog about important information related to the industry including new pests and pesticides, rice meetings, and anything else we find that we think may be of interest. Subscribe to the blog by signing up here: [www.ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/subscribe.cfm](http://www.ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/subscribe.cfm)

## Rice conservation program

*Khara Strum, NRCS Conservation Project Manager, Working Lands Program*

An exciting opportunity for rice growers to create on-farm habitat has a final enrollment opportunity on **July 29th**. An NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) supports Waterbird Habitat Enhancement Program (WHEP) practices and provides incentives to farmers to voluntarily modify their field management in small ways to benefit birds that are also compatible with farming. Rice provides critical food and other resources for many species of waterbirds year-round. Small changes to farm management, as supported by this program, can increase the value of rice fields as resources for birds.

We strongly encourage new growers/landowners who have not enrolled in WHEP or RCPP in the past to apply. New applicants will be preferentially ranked for acceptance into the program. However, we anticipate that quality proposals from past WHEP-RCPP participants will also be considered for funding. Practices available through the RCPP-WHEP include:

- Two weeks of continuous shallow flooding August-October
- Variable drawdown of winter-flooded fields in February
- Planting and maintaining cover crops for nesting birds
- Nesting islands for safe breeding habitat
- Postponing decomp activities until January

No long-term commitment is required in this program. EQIP-eligible producers in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yuba, and Yolo counties can apply. For more information visit your local NRCS office before July 29 or send an email to Khara Strum ([kstrum@audubon.org](mailto:kstrum@audubon.org)) or Paul Buttner ([pbuttner@calrice.org](mailto:pbuttner@calrice.org)).

---

## Testing for Suspected Herbicide Resistance

*Whitney Brim-DeForest, UCCE Farm Advisor, Sutter, Yuba, Sacramento and Placer Counties*

*Kassim Al-Khatib, UC Davis Specialist and Professor*

*Amar Godar, UC Davis Staff Research Associate III*

The UCCE Rice Weeds Program tests grower submitted seed samples of potentially herbicide resistant **watergrass species, sprangletop, smallflower umbrella sedge and bulrush**. However, we encourage you to submit ANY species that you suspect to be resistant. We keep individual grower information confidential and any reporting of results will not identify individual growers.

Please fill out the included form (insert in the newsletter) for each weed seed sample (each field and/or species). The following tips will ensure that you receive the best possible results:

- The best timing of collection is when the seed easily falls off the seed head by gentle agitation in a paper bag.
  - For watergrass species, this should be close to rice harvest
  - For sprangletop, timing will be earlier, in August or September
  - For the sedges, timing may be as early as July, all the way through early September
- Seed should be collected from areas that you know have been sprayed with the suspected herbicide.

- Collect seeds from multiple plants, and the amount should be at least a few handfuls of seed, to ensure sufficient quantity for testing.
- Please do not collect seed from around field margins.
- Allow seed to dry in the paper bag to prevent molding.

Bring the sample and form to your local UCCE Farm Advisor or send or drop off samples at the Rice Experiment Station (RES) in Biggs. If you need assistance in collection, please contact your Farm Advisor or PCA. Results should be available from Amar Godar ([asgodar@ucdavis.edu](mailto:asgodar@ucdavis.edu)) at the RES in February or March of 2017.



**ANR NONDISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT FOR UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. May, 2015.** It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf> ). Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Linda Marie Manton, Affirmative Action Contact, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1318.