

Heading and Flowering Stages

Heading stage is when the panicle emerges from the leaf sheath.

Heading begins at about 60 days depending on the variety grown. The cells of the plant stem enlarge rapidly, vertically and the panicle is pushed upwards. The stem becomes soft and susceptible to attack by stem borer.

Attack by stem borer at this stage results in empty panicles (white head)

Flowering is the stage when the pollen grains are developed and the flowers are fertilized.

Heading and flowering lasts for two weeks.

During this time the flower glumes are opened from about 8am to 3pm to allow for pollination to take place. 10% of flowers are cross pollinated.

The flower parts are soft delicate and can be easily damaged. Paddy bugs normally enter the field at this stage of the crop.

Management Consideration

Ensure there is adequate water in the field at heading. Water is important for development of pollen grains. Poorly developed pollen will result in empty grains (no fertilization)

Do not spray crop with pesticides during flowering. Paddy bugs do no damage to the crop at this time (no milk) but pesticide can damage flower resulting in empty grains and also kill beneficial insects. If necessary to spray (uneven-flowering + milk stage) it should be done during colder parts of the day when flowers are closed.

The application of a light dose of urea at the beginning of heading would encourage even panicle emergence, flowering and maturity of the grains.

Fertilizer would assist in gain filling. (grain weight)

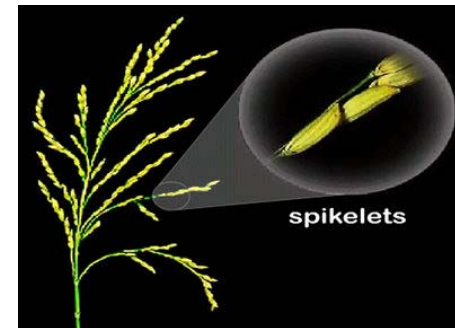
Remove weeds from dams and meres. They provide feeding and breeding sites for paddy bugs before they enter the field. (should be done before heading).

Notes



GUYANA RICE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

BURMA RICE RESEARCH STATION



***THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT HEADING AND
FLOWERING STAGES IN RICE
PRODUCTION***



GUYANA RICE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
116-117 Cowan Street, Kingston, Georgetown.
Tel: 592-225-8717 Fax: 592-225-6486
Email: info@grdb.gy Website: www.grdb.gy