

Milk Stage – Maturity

Milk stage is the stage when the grains are being filled. It begins after flowering and lasts for about 2 weeks.

Starch produced primarily by the flag leaf and 2nd leaf move into the grain. Grains are filled from top to the bottom of the panicle. Only those grains that were fertilized become filled. Milky grains are susceptible to attack by paddy bugs. The bugs feed by sucking the milk out of the grains – wind grain is produced. Grain quality is dependent on amount of sunshine, water and health of plant.

Dough stage is the stage when the contents of the grain hardens after it is filled up. It is when the plant becomes physiologically mature.

Food production stops. The plants begins to die. The leaves become yellow and the milky contents of the grain begins to get hard.

Paddy bugs attack at this stage result in the entry of fungus through the feeding hole. This would result in blackening of the contents of the grain (discoloured or black grains). Paddy bug is not able to suck the contents of the hardening grain.

Maturing stage is when the grain begins to lose moisture. As the plant begins to dry up there is rapid drying of the plants. The grains begin to lose weight and change their colour.

Management Consideration

Ensure that adequate water is present in field at grain filling.

Monitor fields regularly for padi bugs during the cooler parts of the day.

Spray field only when padi bug population is high during milk stage. Do not spray after grains become hard.

Complete drainage of field at about 90 DAS would allow for even ripening of the crop.

Harvest field when lower grains on the panicle become hard or when the moisture content drops below 25%.

Notes



GUYANA RICE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT MILK STAGE –
MATURITY IN RICE
PRODUCTION**

Rice – The Grain of Life



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