

Leptochloa chinensis- A serious weed of rice

Recognize the problem

Its common name is Lamb grass or Jangli grass. It is also found in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. It is a tufted, smooth grass that reaches up to the height of your chest. It has a slender, hollow, erect stem growing up from a branching base. The stem is smooth and hairless.

Background

This grass has become a serious weed in rice fields. It has the ability to withstand waterlogged, drained and moist conditions which makes it a problem weed in rice.

- It is an alternate host of rice diseases and nematodes
- It commonly reduces rice yields by a quarter but in some cases losses may be as high as half the field
- It causes serious problems in nurseries especially dry sown nurseries

Management

- For nurseries, apply a weedicide containing butachlor (e.g. Machete) to the puddle field in standing water one week before sowing the nursery and drain the field after five days. Then, wash the field twice with fresh water over two days and broadcast the sprouted seed in the standing water.
- In a transplanted field, apply the butachlor weedicide with a shaker bottle after 4 to 5 days of transplanting. A water depth of 2 inches should be maintained for period of 25 days.
- In case of direct seeding of rice, spray a weedicide containing bispyribac sodium e.g. Clover @ 120 g per acre after 18 to 22 days of sowing. Spray should be done at wattar (optimum moisture) conditions using a T-Jet nozzle. Irrigate the field one day after the weedicide spray.
- Hand weeding can be effective if a weedicide spray could not be applied at the proper time.

Leptochloa Chinensis-Rice Weed.
(Photo by IRRI (CC BY-NC-SA))



Weed infested rice field at Pindi Bhattian, Chiniot



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Leptochloa chinensis*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Pakistan

Authors: Muhammad Usman Saleem
Rice Research Institute
tel: 0300-4107925 email: usman1015_uaf@yahoo.com

Edited by Plantwise.