
Mandatory Policy and Protocol for Rice Cultivation at Campus Growth Facilities
UC Davis Panicle Rice Mite (PRM) Task Force
September 29, 2009

The PRM task force in conjunction with greenhouse staff has implemented the following policy and protocol to minimize the risk posed by the panicle rice mite (*Steneotarsonemus spinki*), a federally quarantined pest. The seed treatment and management protocol must be followed for rice cultivation by all UCD researchers.

1. All seed, regardless of source, must be treated at some time prior to planting by freeze treatment at -8°C for 72 hours, followed by fumigation with Phostoxin®. Researchers will need to coordinate this treatment with CA&ES Lead Greenhouse Manager Garry Pearson (752-2152; gvpearson@ucdavis.edu). It will be important to treat any new seed prior to storing it with seed collections. Each laboratory will need to maintain an accurate log that records seed batch number, and date and method of treatment. Each package or container should be marked to indicate that the seed batch has been treated. New seed collected from rice plants in the future must be treated to minimize the risk of PRM contamination and logged as such.
2. At this time, APHIS and CDFA personnel are continuing monitoring the greenhouses for PRM with sentinel rice plants. In addition, we will monitor switchgrass and Miscanthus, which appear to be “accidental” (dead-end) hosts but could be potential reservoirs.
3. Rice in greenhouse facilities will be treated on a regular rotation schedule with miticides (Avid and Floramite, and others). The Task Force anticipates that miticide treatments will continue to be mandatory in our rice greenhouses for the near future.
4. Different rice research programs will be separated and not located in contiguous greenhouses.
5. If there are any questions, please contact Rick Bostock (rmbostock@ucdavis.edu; 2-0308) or Garry Pearson (gvpearson@ucdavis.edu; 2-2152).

Task Force Members

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