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GRASSY STUNT EPIDEMIC IN KERALA

In the kole and kuttanad areas of Kerala heavy incidence of grassy stunt was noticed in rice varieties IR. 8 and jaya during 1973. More than fifty percent of the plants in the infested area showed severe stunting, excessive tillering and erect growth habit. The leaves were narrow, short and with pale green to yellow colour and with numerous rusty spots scattered over the entire leaf lamina. The variety Triveni was found to be comparatively free from the infection. Though the transplanted crop of Jaya and IR 8 were heavily infected by the disease, the direct seeded crop of these varieties were comparatively free. This could be attributed to the negligible population of *Nilaparvatalogens* at the time the crop was direct seeded. This is the first time grassy stunt has occurred in an epidemic form in India. The disease has been confirmed by transmission studies conducted by All India Rice Improvement Project, Hyderabad.

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