

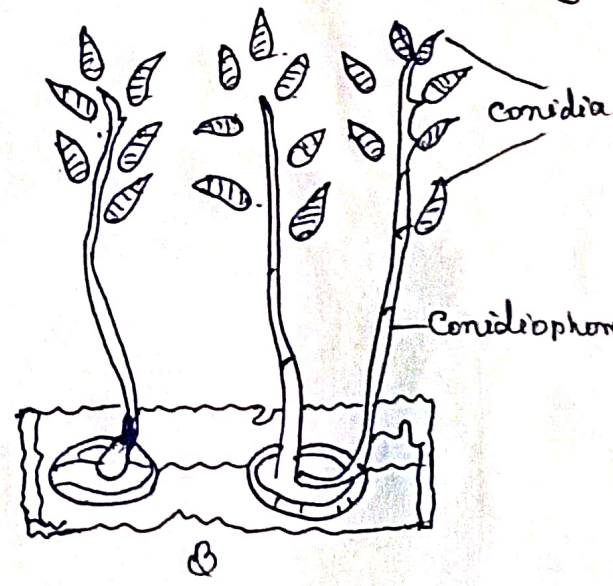
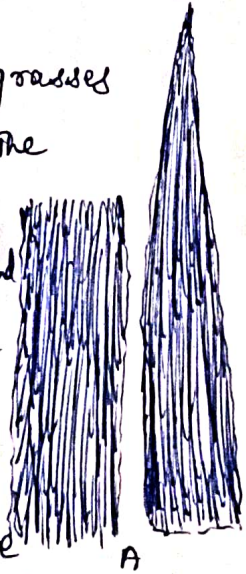
Question → Describe the symptoms, etiology and control of Blast disease of Rice (paddy)

Ans → The blast disease of rice is also known as Blast of rice. The disease is worldwide in distribution but it is more prominent in the humid areas of the world having high annual rainfall.

Symptoms of disease → The disease appears on leaves, leaf sheaths, rachis and even on glumes. On younger leaves it appears as small bluish patch which enlarge considerably to several centimeter long in the later stage. In a large spot the central part is pale green or dull green and the outer rim is dark brown in colour.

Etiology → The disease is caused by *Pyricularia oryzae*. The mycelium of the fungus is septate, branched with multinucleate cells. The reproduction takes place through conidia. The conidia are produced apically on conidiophore. The conidiophores are unbranched or rarely branched, septate, slender and grey in colour.

The fungus survives in grasses and early sown paddy crops. The stages are (a) rapid tillering stage (15-30) days after transplantation and (c) ear or neck emergence stage when the ear or neck is attacked and damaged.



Humidity and temperature

are the important environmental factors that play key role in the spread of disease. Subramanian (1967) and Suryanarayana (1967) have investigated that 30°C day temperature and 20°C night temperature and 10 hours of darkness favour the growth of fungus.

Control → The disease is controlled by —

- (i) Field sanitation
- (ii) seed treatment (Agrosan GN, mixture of abtopfungus and Copper sulphate)
- (iii) Foliar spray: by variety of chemical like Copperzem, Blitor-150, Cufosmit.
- (iv) Antibiotics like kitazen, Imazol, Blatin and kaesumim etc.