

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

Overview:

Texas/Coastal Louisiana: Periodic thunderstorms over the last two weeks helped growers bring most acreage to a flood. Lack of rainfall and delays in canal deliveries had forced some fields west of Houston to go dry twice this season. Rain and humidity also are bringing more disease pressure. The earliest Texas fields could be ready for combines in the first week of July, though the bulk of the crop won't be ready before mid-July.

Midsouth: Most areas are completely or nearly at permanent flood, except where heavy spring rains delayed progress. Earliest rice is at midseason now.

Texas/Coastal La.:

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "We're back into the heat-and-humidity cycle, and disease — particularly sheath blight — is showing up. It's not shaping up to be a bad year, but we are getting into it. Fungicide treatments are being made in some cases, but people also are weighing the decision. With

seed rice, it's pretty much a given. In second-crop situations if everything looks good, then it should be a serious consideration. Growers also will be taking a close look at how severe the problem could be. Our early rice might make it to the point that we won't need treatments, but it's almost a foregone conclusion that the late rice will have heavy disease pressure."

Rick Ferrill, Owner, F&P Agri Sales & Service, Eagle Lake, Texas: "Rice looks wonderful, and scattered showers 2-3 times a week have gotten us out of a critical situation where rice was burning up. People have caught up on watering. But rain and humidity also are firing up sheath blight. I've got fields scheduled for fungicide treatments for midweek and into next week. Low prices are being considered when growers are advised to treat, but the pressure is severe enough that yield and quality losses have to be factors. One consultant advised a farmer to treat his 1,800 acres of Cypress, and he's telling the farmer that his 700 acres of Jefferson may need to be sprayed, too. I'm checking problem fields every two days

and seeing lesions move up 1-2" a day in the last 3-5 days. I'm not finding a field of Cypress past PI that's not infested. How much second-crop rice we'll have will depend on conditions at harvest, but as much as 40-50% could go that way if there's adequate moisture to regenerate plants."

Arlen Klosterboer, Texas Extension Rice Specialist: "Rice still looks very, very good. We haven't seen a lot of disease in most places yet, but there are areas with pressure. With rain kicking in, though, it could start now. It certainly bears watching. We're to the point that nearly 60% of our crop is at PD or greater."

Midsouth:

Nathan Slayton, Arkansas Extension Rice Specialist, Stuttgart, Ark.: "The crop generally looks good. People are still working around showers to apply pre-flood nitrogen and flood up. Some midseason N went out last week and more is scheduled this week. We're getting numerous calls about the flat area board method for planning N."

Continued on next page

Tilt® Controls Rice Kernel Smut

Rice kernel smut has become an increasing problem, especially on susceptible varieties like lagrue, cypress, priscilla, and cocordrie. Tilt offers control to prevent losses in yields and preserve milling quality. Tilt will prevent the gray discoloration of the milled rice caused by kernel smut, and eliminate the typical, black, spore-covered combines seen when harvesting heavily infected fields.--

SPONSORED MESSAGE



<http://www.cp.us.novartis.com>

Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using this product.

Tilt® is a trademark of Novartis.

©1999 Novartis. Novartis Crop Protection, Inc. Greensboro, NC 27419-8300.

This partly seems due to a good article that appeared in one of the rice magazines recently. But it's also a sign of tough economic times. People are looking at every input. We're starting to see more weevil damage, with larvae in fields that didn't get Karate earlier. Without a good supply of Furadan, we don't have many options. Where there's time, some growers will drain and dry fields. Other are throwing on extra nitrogen. Where we're applying midseason N, there's potential soon for sheath blight to fire up, and blast could be in the picture with the cooler temperatures and moisture we've had."

Keith Shelton, Farmland Technical Services, N. Little Rock, Ark.: "We're getting everything to a permanent flood this week in the area I work (around England), and midseason N is going out. Our earliest rice was flooded two weeks ago, and we're at green ring to quarter-inch movement on early rice. Some Grandstand for indigo is being applied, and we're applying Ordram in fields around cotton where we had Facet or Command. I've got some no-till fields where we applied Facet, and residue didn't allow it to get through. We've hardly had any weevil pressure. We had to drain some fields this week for straighthead."

Bruce Beck, Extension Regional Agronomist/Rice, Butler, Mo.: "As much as two-thirds of our fields are flooded now and the rest is moving toward it. Considering that most of our crop was planted in a relatively narrow window, the problem all season will be doing things on time. It's made it tough to schedule aerial applicators, and at harvest all this crop is going to come

off in a relatively short period. We've got a big crop for Missouri. It's hard to judge exactly, but it's well over 150,000 acres. Based on what buyers and millers told us last year, we had 128,000 acres in Missouri, though the government put the number at 144,000. But I've never seen so much rice as what we have this year."

Wayne Dulaney, Field Representative, Helena Chemical Co., Clarksdale, Miss.: "Everybody in the Coahoma County area got a half-inch of rain over the weekend, but some areas got 2.5" and in Tallahatchie County in northern Leflore County, it's still dry. Rice is coming along well. Cotton people are saying it's a bad insect year, but we're not finding as much weevil pressure as expected, just isolated fields. We're scouting and applying Karate as needed. Where Icon was used, it held up well. We're just starting to flood up some late rice. In one case, a grower flooded a field, and chinch bugs moved onto the levees and cleaned them off. By the end of this week, our earliest rice will be at green ring. We're 85% to 90% flooded, and all the crop should be flooded by the end of this week."

Dan Roach, Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.: "Our early fields are hitting midseason. Some 2,4D is going out early this week. We're not seeing a lot of problems. Grass control has gone fairly well. A little Ordram is being applied. Command worked fairly well. We had some breakthroughs with it. We're still in the weed control mode but about to shift into the midseason mode. My oldest rice will be at half-inch movement by the first of next week and ready for midseason N. More than 90% of our acreage is flooded now.

Cool temperatures contributed to some weed control failures. The wind was out of the north and humidity was down to nothing, and treatments didn't kill anything. That's why Ordram is going out now. Weevils haven't been much of a problem. I've seen a few grasshoppers around the edges."

Mark Maier, Field Representative, Stratton Seed Co., Stuttgart, Ark.: "A little Ordram is going out. It's not a salvage situation yet, but we're trying to get onto the resistant grass and misses. About 85% of our rice is flooded or headed to flood, and fertilizer is going on. Joints are starting to move on early Jefferson and Lagrue. Midseason fertilizer is going on 10% of our acreage. With this joint movement and humid conditions over the last 5-7 days, we're in a perfect environment for disease, and we could see pressure showing up in another week."

Cary Cheek, Southern Soil Management Corp., Gilbert, La.: "The majority of our crop is at the 2-4 leaf stage and has had its first herbicide treatment. Most is being flushed over right now, but nothing has a permanent flood. Herbicide activity has been fair to good. We're seeing some Command damage where applications weren't fine tuned. We didn't use Command because we flew on our herbicides, but I was called in to look at a situation. Overall, our herbicides worked well where we could get water to them. Where we couldn't move water fast enough, we had efficacy problems, and we're looking at those places now and considering Whip in some cases."