

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

Overview:

Texas/Coastal Louisiana: The crop continues to progress and appears to be pushing toward an early harvest in some areas. No firm acreage predictions are being made, but our contacts this week said the potential is there for second cropping a large portion of the acreage. Armyworm pressure prompted spraying in eastern Texas over the last two weeks.

Midsouth: More acreage is going to a permanent flood. Weevils are being scouted and treated in a wide area. The crop generally looks good. In central and northern Louisiana, chinch bugs are showing up in late rice, and some treatments are being made, says Johnny Saichuck, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist.

Texas/Coastal La.:

Dan Bradshaw, Consultant, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas: "Rice is looking good, and it's pretty clean. Some sheath blight is showing up, and we're trying to make economic

decisions about what needs to be treated and what doesn't. We're also looking at the potential return on second crop rice. The crop looks good enough that a lot of growers will try to second crop if harvest goes good. Experience has shown that fungicide on the first crop helps the second crop, but we don't know how much."

David Mitchell, M&M Air Service, Beaumont, Texas: "We're 100% planted with about 75% to a permanent flood. We've been treating armyworms on a wide basis. We've kept six airplanes spraying for two weeks. There was a pretty good hatch, and it was really hurting the rice. The pressure wasn't noticed until people treated grass. When the grass was taken out, there wasn't anything left but the rice, and armyworms really jumped on it. I think we've broken the cycle. Where Icon wasn't used, we're putting on Karate for weevils right at pre-flood. It's a two-for-one deal because worms are in the rice, too. There's still some propanil going out, and we're doing a lot of top

dressings now. Overall, the rice looks good. It's going into the boot stage and progressing quickly. I think there will be people cutting rice in mid-July and maybe earlier than that with the March rice on the other side of Houston."

Johnny Saichuck, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "We're seeing the Icon play out, which is good, because it's obvious that it doesn't last forever. We're picking up sheath blight along edges in the lower parishes. Growers are watching it closely. Conditions are right for this. We've got the right humidity and thunderstorms in the afternoons. No treatments have been made that I know about, though some fungicides may be going out. One of the factors being weighed is the potential for second crop production."

Midsouth:

Grady Coburn, Consultant, Cheneyville, La.: "A lot of our crop is pretty close to a permanent flood. What isn't flooded is still in

Continued on next page

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the herbicide phase, and we're accomplishing that reasonably well. The weather has cooperated with us over the last 10 days. Where we needed a good rain, we got it, and where we didn't need the rain, we didn't get it. Where we have a permanent flood, most fields have been topdressed substantially."

Amy Beth Dowdy, Consultant, ABD Crop Consulting, Dexter, Mo.: "We're spraying, and some acreage is going to flood now, and about 50% will be going to flood later this week."

Garrick Martin, Consultant, Lawhon Farm Services, McCrory, Ark.: "We're mainly getting the flood on now. Some of our early rice has had a stand for two weeks, and we're not too far from the point on the lighter ground that it can be drained for straighthead. Our latest rice is just now getting a good stand, and we're applying herbicides. We've really got about three different stages out there. Stands look pretty good. We've got a lot better stand on the levees than we did last year. We caught several rains, including a big one yesterday (Sunday). Some weevil scars are visible but nothing heavy."

Nathan Slayton, Arkansas Extension Rice Specialist, Stuttgart, Ark.: "Overall, the Arkansas crop looks good. There is a lot of sick rice out there. Earlier cool temperatures have been an ideal trigger for phosphorous and zinc deficiency on high pH soils. We're receiving quite a few calls about that. We've had more questions this year than I can remember about zinc fertilizer. I'm

not sure if this is an indication of people trying to cut back on inputs. Some have been trying to drop in a granular with their pre-flood nitrogen. We haven't tried that and don't have data on it. Doing zinc research in rice has been difficult because you can't predict very well where the deficiency will develop. We're also seeing a lot of weevil scarring this year. It does seem like weevil pressure has increased over the last couple of years. We're not sure why, whether it's increased acreage, mild winters, growers don't have Furadan or if it's simply that people are paying more attention to scarring. More Karate is going out compared to last year. It's good that people are staying on top of this. We're close to mid-season, and I would hate to see fields drained down for control, especially with varieties that are blast susceptible."

Marvin Lott, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Cleveland, Miss.: "Overall, the rice crop is coming along real well. The majority already has a permanent flood on it. We're finding a lot of weevil scars right now. Some rice has been treated. Where Icon was used, we haven't treated. We can see a few scars in those fields, but it's low compared to where nearby fields were planted with seed that didn't have Icon. The thing we will have to weigh now is the economic side of this, such as the cost of Icon versus whether we need one or two Karate treatments."

Allen McKnight, Consultant, Delta Ag Consulting, Greenville, Miss.: "Most of the rice is looking pretty good. We'll have 85%

to 90% flooded by the end of the week. In a few fields we're cleaning up the last few grass problems. We're seeing weevils pretty much every place and are putting on Karate. They are heavy in some fields with scars and live weevils, and I'm finding them in some fields that have never had rice before this season. Compared to what I would consider normal, we're 7 to 10 days ahead of schedule. Even on the latest planted rice, we finished up Saturday or Sunday a week ago, and usually the late fields are still being planted in mid June."

Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist, Stoneville, Miss.: "About 60% has been flooded. That was the early rice. We have about a week before the rice from the next planting period is flooded. Stands, in general, look pretty good. We've got some rice still coming up, and some planting is still planned. I've had three calls already this morning (Monday) about weevils. We're beginning to see a pretty good population generally scattered all over, especially in established rice growing areas. Most people I've talked with are treating."

Crowley Field Day

The annual field day at the Crowley Rice Experiment Station is scheduled for June 24. Featured speaker is Nathan Childs, a market analyst with the USDA's Economic Research Service. Presentations and stops include fertility and production practices, variety development, weed control, and insect and disease management.