

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

Overview:

Texas/La. Gulf: Rains last week brought a needed break to a long stretch of dry weather. The region received at least 1" in most places, but 3" to 5" fell east of Houston and into southern Louisiana where the situation has been most critical. Nobody is calling this the end of the drought. Memories of 1998's crisis still are fresh. A dry June could cause a setback. But more rain is in the immediate forecast, and higher humidity and temperatures are at least bringing more of a promise for thunderstorms.

Midsouth: Planting is nearly complete. Wind and cooler temps have held back the crop in many cases. In the last 24 hours, rain fell across wide parts of the Delta. Many areas needed the moisture, and growers had been flushing on broad acreage. Between .7" and 2" fell in the Cleveland, Miss., area, reported Marvin Lott with Jimmy Sanders, Inc. "The pumps have all been shut down now," Lott said Tuesday afternoon.

Texas/La. Gulf:

David Mitchell, M&M Air Service, Beaumont, Texas: "We finally got some rain last Monday—from 3.5" to 4" east of Houston—and it changed everybody's attitude. From 10% to 20% of the crop here is going into a permanent flood now. Over the weekend, we sprayed with everything we had and have been going strong all (Monday) morning. We're about 90% planted, and about 85% of that has emerged. Stands are good everywhere."

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist: "Rain in southern Louisiana freshened things up last week. It varied from 3" to 5", depending on location, and it gave us a chance to catch up. We're not completely out of the woods. A dry June could put us behind again. But for right now, the crop looks good. We're at about mid-season on the earliest planted fields. We continue to see good results with Icon. Growers continue to say these are the best root systems they've ever seen, and

questions are being raised about how this will effect yields, whether they should use more nitrogen to take advantage of improved roots or whether better roots will allow them to reduce nitrogen rates. Those are questions for research, and I'm hoping we'll get some answers this year."

Arlen Klosterboer, Texas Extension Rice Specialist: "Rice looks very good. Rain in the first part of last week helped. Amounts were scattered across the Texas rice belt. We've got hot weather right now and seem to be out of the drought mode, at least for the moment. A low percentage of the crop has reached PD. Not quite half the crop now has a permanent flood."

Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas: "More fields are starting to hold floods, and growers are doing the final cleanup and fertilizer work to get the others ready. About 15% of the acreage has had a flood for the last two weeks. In general,

Continued on next page

Does Your Herbicide Give You Freedom to Flush?

Dry weather can be hard on a rice crop. But if you used the wrong herbicide, a flush could be even worse. That's because herbicides designed to act through weed roots can play havoc with young rice roots. Bolero® 8 EC Herbicide works differently. Even though it delivers unsurpassed control of sprangletop, barnyardgrass and aquatic weeds, BOLERO can handle a flush or a heavy rain without damaging rice plants. With BOLERO you're free of weeds and free to flush.

-- SPONSORED MESSAGE

BOLERO® 8 EC Rice Herbicide

RiceFax is sponsored by Valent USA as a service to rice producers and the rice industry.

<http://www.valent.com>

BOLERO is a registered trademark of Kumiai Chemical Industry Co., Ltd. for thiobencarb herbicide © 1999 Valent U.S.A. Corp.

stands look good. We're seeing some rice water weevil scars and adults in a few fields. I'm treating parts of a few fields. Where it was used, Icon is holding pretty well. We received .5" to 1" of rain early last week. We're nearly to the half-way point on our earliest rice."

Midsouth:

Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist: "The crop is doing well. Some places are ready for rain that's in the forecast, and some don't need it. We've got some rice in the 4-5 leaf stage that was planted in late March, but most is in that 2-3 leaf stage. A small amount of planting is still pending, and whether it rains will determine how much finally is seeded. If it does rain this week, some growers will perceive that it's too late to plant rice and they will shift those acres to soybeans. Stands are filling in a little better now."

Nathan Slayton, Arkansas Extension Rice Specialist: "It's dry around Stuttgart, and everybody has been flushing the last 5-6 days. Surprisingly, some rice planted the first of last week had enough moisture to come up. Whether growers planted in stale seedbed or worked the ground dry is determining whether rice comes up right now without flushing. Around Stuttgart, rice in the 2-3 leaf stage is probably the most advanced, but planting was somewhat ahead of that in northeastern parts of the state and probably some fields are getting a flood or close to it. Generally, stands look good. The wind continues to play havoc on spraying. Residual her-

bicides definitely need to be activated, and some of the rice is looking stressed with dry conditions."

Garrick Martin, Field Consultant, Lawhon Farm Services, McCrory, Ark.: "Until recently, we were catching rains in just about perfect timing. But we got our last good rain about two weeks ago, and a lot of rice had just gotten in the ground. There hasn't been enough moisture for germination, the ground crusted over, and those fields are being flushed now. Our latest planted fields have been flushed and probably will need a second flushing on heavier soils to get rice out of the ground. We're about 90% planted. Stands look pretty good. We've sprayed some older fields twice and are getting ready for second treatments on others. Most of our early rice got Prowl, Bolero or Facet, and we looked at some Command, too. We're planning on propronil or a Bolero-Super Wham combination. On the earliest fields, we're 7-10 days from a permanent flood. We're trying to hold off for plants to get a little taller and maybe catch another flush of grass."

Marvin Lott, Sales Representative, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Cleveland, Miss.: "We received a couple of inches of rain 10 days ago, and the wind dried it out pretty rapidly. Cool temperatures also helped shut down the plant. We're seeing stands of rice not quite where they should be. A majority of growers in this area are flushing today (Monday), and unless we get a good rain, that will continue. Stands look like they're holding up and temperatures are warming up. When we get the

water across it, I think we'll see some pretty good rice."

Amy Beth Dowdy, ABD Crop Consulting, Dexter, Mo.: "We're 85- 90% planted in this area and 40-45% up and sprayed. We received showers over the weekend and today (Monday) in a few places. Last week, we received rain, but it was very spotty. Most stands look good, considering the conditions, but a lot have been flushed to get a stand. We're dealing with some broadleaf treatments where morningglory, smartweed and cockleburrs came up following Command."

Grady Coburn, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.: "We're pretty well planted now, and it's up and generally doing good. We have it from just up to probably green ring. There are no particular problems with insects and nothing with weeds out of the ordinary. We haven't had the water problems that everyone has been talking about in southern Louisiana. Overall, our rice acreage probably won't change much."

Allen McKnight, Consultant, Delta Ag Consulting, Greenville, Miss.: "We're about 95% planted, and most is growing off pretty fast now. Some of the early fields in lighter soils are being prepared to flood up. We received a .5" to .8" last night, according to what my growers told me this morning (Tuesday). We're trying to get herbicide work finished. It's been very difficult to fight the winds this season. Just about all the adjacent crops are emerged. A lot of cotton has been replanted, and that's helped some."