

# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

## Thanks, Valent!

We are now at the halfway point of our publishing season, and we want to thank Valent USA and its Bolero representatives for sponsoring the launch of RiceFax and our first seven issues in 1999.

The second half of this season will be sponsored by Novartis Crop Protection, manufacturer of Tilt fungicide.

## Overview:

**Texas/Coastal La.:** Flooding continues and is nearly finished in some areas. A few insect problems are reported and a small amount of sheath blight is showing up in Texas.

**Midsouth:** Planting is nearly complete in most parts of the region. Several of our contacts this week noted that they are dealing with two separate crops, based on planting dates. While that's not uncommon, there appears to be a wider division than usual between late and early crops in some areas. More than a third of the acreage has reached a permanent flood in some areas.

## Texas/Coastal La.:

**Arlen Klosterboer, Texas Extension Rice Specialist:** "Everything

looks very good, and we're 99% planted. A shower would help, but there's nothing in the immediate forecast. At least 50% of the rice now is at a permanent flood. Scattered insect problems are being reported but nothing of consequence."

**Rick Ferrell, Owner, F&P Agri Sales & Service, Eagle Lake, Texas:**

"Between 85% and 90% of the acreage has or is getting a permanent flood. Most of our grass has been sprayed, and we've had two fertilizer top dressings on a good deal of acreage. We've got some sheath blight already showing up down in the canopy in older fields with good, thick stands. We've been having to flush and hold shallow floods in some cases, and that's complicated the problem. We'll probably be spraying by the end of this week. Rain a week ago helped a whole lot, but it's getting dry again. Everything is in pretty good shape. In a few scattered fields we're finding root maggot problems. A small amount of acreage was treated with Icon. I normally spray pre-flood if we find a lot of scars, but we've only had to treat a few fields here and there."

**Gary Bradshaw, Bradshaw Ag Consulting, Brookshire, Texas:** "We are 70% flooded, and everything else

is moving toward flooding. Water is kind of tight as it always is this time of the year, so it's sort of a struggle to keep water on fields that are already flooded and flood the remaining acreage. Overall, the crop looks good. A few fall armyworms are showing up in some late planted rice, and they have been treated."

## Midsouth:

**Darrell Hess, Consultant, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Wynne, Ark.:**

"We're at first flood on 30% to 40% of our acreage and have urea going on. Our acreage is 100% planted and 98% emerged. Everything looks pretty good. We're seeing a little bit of salt problems where we haven't had the rain, and a little sprangletop has slipped through. Where we've put on the water, the rice is really taking off. It's got a healthy green color to it."

**Bruce Beck, Extension regional Agronomist/Rice, Butler, Mo.:**

"We've planted in record time in Butler County. Easily, 90% to 95% is planted, and most has emerged. We saw the first field flooded up last weekend, which is very early for us. Most growers are flying on their first

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proponil applications right now, and some Command is going on. Our varieties have changed. I understand people can't get any more Jefferson, and they are asking me about Priscilla right now. We also are finishing up our DD-50 page on the internet. You can reach it at:

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/rice>

"It should be up by Tuesday."

**Wayne Dulaney, Field Representative, Helena Chemical Co., Clarksdale, Miss.:** "The crop is coming along pretty good. Flooding has started on a little acreage, and a good deal of it will be flooded by next week. Some decisions are being made today (Monday) about what to put out for broadleaf weeds behind Command, and we've got some Bolero-Stam tankmixes going on rice that didn't have Command. One thing that's complicating treatments is that temperatures are expected to remain in the 80s until late in the week. Straight Stam in that case sometimes gives a little less control, so we're adding Bolero to heat it up, or we're applying Arrosolo. We also had spotty rain over the weekend, and where the rain missed fields, some grass is drought stressed. I'm talking to some growers about a quick flush to make it easier to kill or putting on the flood if we're close enough so we can use Stam and apply Facet. We've also had to be careful with some new rice growers who landformed ground. We came close to recommending Facet and Grandstand, then doublechecked field histories. That made us concerned about fishhook injury, and we figured that Stam, Bolero and Arrosolo would be safer products."

**Keith Shelton, Consultant, Farmland Technical Services, North Little Rock, Ark.:** "Planting is winding down in the area I work (the England vicinity), and we've got everything from permanent flood to just emerging. It's going to be a season with two different crops, an early one and a late one. As of this morn-

ing (Monday), we haven't hit a 90 degree temperature. The rice has been moving a little slowly. We're starting to flush some up and also flushing other fields to keep it from cracking where we've got Facet or Command."

**Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist:** "We're flooding and we're planting at the same time. That's not out of the ordinary, but there's probably a little more than usual. We seem to have two to three separate crops out there. Probably 30% of our acreage has a flood, and a lot of folks are getting ready to flood. About 95% to 99% has been planted. The remaining acreage is mainly where landforming has been underway. In general, the crop looks pretty good with some thin stands in places. Some people who used Command are now dealing with broadleaves that got a little bigger than normal, and they're asking about what to do."

**Mark Maier, Field Representative, Stratton Seed Co., Stuttgart, Ark.:** "We're about 95% planted and going to a permanent flood on half or more of our acreage. Pre-flood nitrogen also is going out. We're having trouble with grape colaspis. It's either a situation of flushing to get rid of it or encouraging early growth. We've been putting out ammonium sulfate to give it a boost. On the prairie, we're in good shape overall. We've had some problems establishing a stand on some buckshot soils."

**Bill Killen, Bill Killen Consulting Services, Cleveland, Miss.:** "Several growers have continued planting rice. They prepared fields, then looked at the bean market and decided to plant more rice. They're planting 25% to 50% more than they projected back in the winter and early spring. It's not a widespread trend. Only about 10% of our acreage has a flood, but a big slug is moving toward a flood now. Some Command acreage is going to flood without followup treatments, but we've also got cleanup treatments before the

flood where we're dealing with coffeeweed, pigweed and some morningglory species. Also, there are cases where the ground cracked and grass has come through. In some cases, we're trying to deal with grass, broadleaves and sedges in one pop before we flood. Stands overall look real good. We're running into a little rice water weevil on fields flooded within the last week and are applying Karate Z."

**Jeff Reeves, Consultant, Lawhon Farm Services, Beedeville, Ark.:** "We're 95% to 98% completed with planting. Some of our fields planted in March have had a flood for more than two weeks. About 10% has been flooded and another 10% to 20% will be flooded this week. We've just started our herbicide program on some of the late rice. We have some Super Wham going out now with Facet or Bolero and are still putting out some Command. We're not getting as much rain as we were, and we're somewhat holding off on residuals and going more to contacts. We still have rice that will need a rain or flushing for emergence. We've seen a little water weevil scarring on early flooded fields, but no root pruning has been evident."

**Jerry Ringle, Sales Representative, UAP-Midsouth, Rayville, La.:** "We're trying to get a post-emergence treatment on so we can apply fertilizer and put the water on it. The crop is coming along pretty good. This cool weather has been affecting it some, producing a spindly plant. None of my customers have had to overseed, but quite a bit has been going on. Rains have been spotty and moistened up fields enough for emergence in some cases. One grower told me yesterday he had overseeded half his crop. Guys were flushing some ground, then got pounded by rain. One farmer I know with 800 acres of rice still lacks planting 100 to 120 acres and doesn't have the first levee pulled because the field is too wet."