

# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

## Introduction

Here is this week's issue of RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas.

The crop in Texas continues to progress, and planting is all but finished. The southern Louisiana crop remains plagued by low water levels and/or salinity. In the Midsouth, planting is going full bore.

We welcome your questions and comments.

Owen Taylor, Editor

[Owen@agfax.com](mailto:Owen@agfax.com)

888-327-6329

## Texas/S. La.

**Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas:** "Rice is coming along real well. We're getting the flood established on a lot of it now, and some cleanup herbicide work is underway. We had a little bit of rain this morning (Monday), just enough to slow down herbicide work. It was hot and dry last week, and with dry

ground it's been taking longer than normal to get water across fields. The rice overall looks good, and we're still at least two weeks ahead of what's considered normal."

**Arlen Klosterboer, Texas Extension Rice Specialist:** "Except for a few places here and there, we're finished with planting. A third of it is probably under permanent flood as of today (Monday). The rains Monday didn't reach the coastal areas in any significant way, but farther inland it was heavier, as much as 1.75" in the Bryan area. Beaumont got close to .75". We've got a 40% to 60% chance of rain for the next several days, so maybe it will be more widespread as the week goes on."

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "Estimates are edging up on the amount of acreage that won't be planted in Louisiana. We're still looking at 60,000 acres or more in the

coastal parishes, and we could have another 40,000-acre decline in the northeastern parishes. I'm seeing predictions for the state of 525,000 to 550,000 planted acres, but 550,000 looks too optimistic. It's still dry in this part of the state, and one little town just issued advisories about watering lawns and washing cars. I'm getting calls regarding phosphorous deficiency, and it's turning up in some fields where soil tests showed high levels or farmers applied enough that this shouldn't be a concern. For some reason, environmental conditions are causing this. Plants are responding to applications. I'm advising growers who suspect they have it to mark off a 20'-by-20' place in the field and apply 1 pound of 0-46-0. You'll be able to confirm in about five days that phosphorous deficiency is the

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## Does Your Herbicide Give You The Freedom To Flush?

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problem. Symptoms include plants that are short for their age and lower leaves dying and sloughing off. Leaves that don't die tend to look very green, but you get a yellow tinting effect from a distance because of the bottom leaves. We're also facing a challenge in south Louisiana with water weevil control where people didn't use Icon or treat with insecticides earlier. Fields are reaching threshold, and growers are afraid to drain fields because they don't know if they'll have enough water to reflood."

**David Mitchell, M&M Air Service, Beaumont, Texas:** "We've been planting quite a bit in the last 10 to 14 days, both by air and drilled. By now, 85% to 90% is planted, and maybe 70% has emerged. We're still going to be a good 25% down. Herbicides and base fertilizers are going on. Some rice is going into permanent flood."

## **Midsouth:**

**Marvin Lott, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Cleveland, Miss.:** "The north wind has really been drying out our fields. If we don't get a rain in the next five to seven days, growers will probably start some wells running to flush fields. We're 35% to 40% planted, but less than 5% of what has been planted is up."

**Nathan Slayton, Arkansas Extension Rice Specialist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** "Everybody is

hitting it pretty hard right now. It's been dry this last week, and people have made a lot of progress. We're probably 60% planted and close to 20% emerged. If it stays dry, we can make a lot of headway this week."

**Hugh Whitby, Agriliance, Parkin, Ark.:** "About half the expected crop in this area has been planted, and we're trying to finish the rest of it as fast as we can. Some fields are still damp from rains last week, so we're at a standstill in places while we wait for things to dry out. A lot of Command is going out right now, but the wind has been a problem, and where we've made treatments we need a rain."

**David Guethle, Extension Agent/Rice, Dexter, Mo.:** "As of today, parts of the county are 50% to 80% planted. A small percentage is up. We missed the rain Monday, and the wind has crusted up things pretty well. Growers are still working ground and planting where conditions permit. One inch of rain right now would be welcomed."

**Jerry Ringle, UAP-Midsouth, Rayville, La.:** "Everything's going wide open right now with planting. A few of my growers are finished or nearly through, and some are just starting. It wouldn't hurt right now to get a shower to get some of this rice up. We may have a little emerged, but that's

all. We're probably a little more than half finished planting."

**Leslie McFadden, Consultant, Beedeville, Ark.:** "A large part of our planted acreage needs to be flushed. Rain is in the forecast, but some growers are pumping now because they don't want to take a chance on the forecast. I've got everything from fields that have just been planted to some rice at the three-leaf stage. Several growers are through planting and a few are just starting. A half to three-quarters of an inch of rain right now would sure help on the Facet and Command. A lot of little one-leaf grass is coming up. In some fields, it's come up pretty good, and I don't think we can wait for the five to seven days needed to get enough water moved across the fields for activation. We had a good rain nine days ago, but the north wind followed, and everything dried up in a hurry."

**Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist:** "We're about 50% planted and maybe 10% to 15% emerged. The wind has been pretty rough on putting out preemergence herbicides. There are no real problems right now. Some areas in Tallahatchie County are still too wet to plant, but most of the state is dry enough or nearly to that point."