

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

Overview:

The Texas crop continues to progress. The southern Louisiana crop remains under stress from too little rain and too many rice water weevils.

The Midsouth received general rains over the weekend. Several of our contacts this week said the showers will help germinate late fields and also brought moisture where some smaller plants were stressing.

We have added a third page that contains a DD50 table developed by Bart Freeland and Mark Silva at the DREC-Weather/GIS Data Center at Mississippi State's Delta Branch Experiment Station. The page also includes a table for development stages for most varieties grown in the Midsouth.

Thanks to the Midsouth and Texas staffs of **Valent USA** for sponsoring RiceFax during the first eight weeks of the season. **Novartis Crop Protection** is sponsoring the second half of the 2000 reporting season.

-- Owen Taylor, Editor

Texas/S. La.

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley,

La.: "Dry weather is still a problem in parts of the coastal parishes. The train derailment last weekend at Eunice, believe it or not, has affected farmers in parts of three parishes. There was a no-fly zone imposed for a six-mile radius around the area due to potentially harmful fumes. That held up fertilizer, herbicide and fungicide treatments. The railroad has been working with farmers in good faith, it appears, but it's going to be hard to determine what the yield effect will be. We're still looking at incidents of weevils slipping through Icon. We can't draw any firm conclusions, but we still suspect it was due to high numbers of weevils coming into fields as the treatment wore off. Weevil pressure does seem to be subsiding now. Fungicides are starting to go out, and we're getting headed rice."

Howard Comier, Vermilion Parish Extension Agent, Abbeville, La.: "Saltwater continues to eat our lunch. From 50% to 60% of our fields probably have some degree of stress due to salt. Between evaporation and seepage into the dry soils around rice fields, some farmers are losing nearly 1" of water a day. Some growers on the western side of the parish planted

after we got that 7" of rain in early May, thinking the drought was broken, but we haven't gotten adequate rain since then. Several of those fields may be abandoned due to lack of moisture and economics. One farmer is trying to save his crop by moving water 3.5 miles in an open ditch. Pressure from weevils is still hurting. The only option is draining the rice, which is already stressed."

Arlen Klosterboer, Texas Extension Rice Specialist: "In the upper Gulf Coast area, everything looks very good, even the row crops. It's kind of scary. We're 90% flooded, with 30% to 35% at PD and maybe 10% headed. Some scattered diseases are showing up, which isn't surprising with the showers, heat and humidity we've had. We're not seeing the weevil pressure here that's been reported in Louisiana. I was told that weevil counts are down, in fact, in some research plots."

Midsouth:

Bruce Beck, Extension Regional Agronomist/Rice, Butler, Mo.: "Where heavy rains two weeks ago drowned out some rice, growers have redrilled portions of those fields."

Continued on next page

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Overall, the crop looks pretty good. We're not seeing any particular weed problems."

Jay Coker, Consultant/Grower, DeWitt, Ark.: "Overall, the crop looks better than average. On a scale of 10, the fields I look at are running a 7 to 8. Everybody got a stand, and development and tillering are progressing. We received .75" to 1" of rain over the weekend, which was just enough to hold things up. This week and next week we'll finish up the majority of our pre-flood herbicide and fertilizer applications. Everybody is going back to check for escapes and clean up behind the Facet and Command."

Bill Rushing, Consultant, Lawhon Farm Service, McCrory, Ark.: "We've still got guys planting rice, and we're hearing about a couple of cases where several hundred acres will be planted with quick maturing varieties. I'm finding some weevil scars on leaves but not much root pruning right now. We're getting ready to drain a few fields for straighthead. None of mine are drained yet but some in the area have been."

Jerry Ringle, UAP-Midsouth, Rayville, La.: "We got a good rain over most of the crop over the weekend, anywhere from 2" to 4" on a large part of it. Some fields are going to flood, and we're trying to get the early postemergence herbicides on other fields. Overall, the rice crop looks good. We're seeing a few adult water weevils in places and are making a few Karate applications."

Allen McKnight, Ind. Consultant, Delta Ag Consulting, Greenville, Miss.: "Most of the crop looks pretty good. We're cleaning up fields and putting the flood on some of the older rice. Maybe 10% to 15% of the rice in my area is flooded. More would have been by now if it hadn't been for all the wind delaying herbi-

cide work. We had a little trouble with seedling disease on some of the younger rice, but if we don't have any more problems then it won't be a big deal. We're putting on Karate for rice water weevils. A little more planting may be done with some early maturing varieties on some late landformed ground.

Curt Johnson, Technical Services Consultant, Agrilience Tech Services, Dermott, Ark.: "We've been making a hard push to finish planting, but rain over the weekend may have stopped the last little bit of it. I've heard some people say they're pushing back their cutoff date for planting, but most of my growers have already cut off. The rains were a Godsend where we were worried about whether we would get some of the crop up. We got 1.5" to 2". My growers are beginning to flood up the early fields and have applied a good bit of fertilizer. I'm starting to check closely for rice water weevils. The only treatment so far was in a very thin stand that couldn't sustain even a little competition."

Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.: "We're about 50% flooded. Rains over the weekend ranged from .5" up to 5" in some areas. One of my growers in Ruleville measured 3.5" in 75 minutes. The rain, at least at the lower end of the amounts, hit us just right. We needed about 1.5" to kick things off again. The week before, we had fields that cracked down to the roots, and plants were starting to die. We went ahead and fertilized and put on the water, but in other fields dry conditions were putting us in a bind."

Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist: "Most everything looks good. We're seeing a few problems with seedling diseases, but nothing serious so far. Some people who haven't finished planting their

intended acreage say they will finish up, but I'm not sure by this point it will all go into the ground. Some people needed the rain over the weekend, but not the 5" and 6" extremes. We're pushing 50% at a flood. It seems like most fields were flooded while the rice was smaller than it usually is at that point. I suspect there are cases where people flooded somewhat smaller rice to try to hold onto grass control from Command."

Nathan Slayton, Arkansas Extension Rice Specialist, Stuttgart, Ark.: "A lot of rice has been fertilized and flooded. People who fertilized before the weekend rain are in good shape. Where they couldn't finish up, it's going to be frustrating now to get it completed. Growers are still trying to plant a few fields, and some will be planted behind wheat, but we're mostly finished. I ran DD50s for this year and compared them to the 30-year norms, and they're just about dead even. I don't think we'll have to adjust our DD50s, but we are having some cool night temperatures right now. The crop seems to be improving. There have been some comments that it hasn't looked as good, and some of that may be related to Command. We haven't had the pretty green carpet because of doubling up and white spots, but fertilizer and flooding are making a lot of fields look better. We've still got flood water in Clay and Green Counties from rain the week before, and decisions are being made about whether to keep some stands and how they will manage some of these fields that were severely flooded."

Ross Wood, Farmland Technical Services, N. Little Rock, Ark.: "Rice is looking much better. We're doing a lot of our joint movement fertilization on Cocodrie. All my Cocodrie is moving now. We're trying to catch up on indigo to plan treatments."

Degree Day Table*

Accumulated Adjusted DD50's from Emergence Date for the Mississippi Delta

Emergence Date	Tunica	Cleveland	Stoneville	S'ville Norms	Onward
4/10/100	1111	1131	1184	1192	1200
4/17/100	1076	1094	1141	1092	1150
4/24/100	965	977	1017	977	1021
5/1/100	860	879	901	854	912
5/8/100	698	718	763	710	736
5/15/100	544	549	558	553	560
5/22/100	385	387	390	380	389
5/29/100	190	191	194	196	195
6/5/100					
6/12/100					

Accumulated Adjusted DD50's Needed To Reach Each Growth Stage From Emergence To Harvest

Variety	Emergence	1st Tiller	HIE	50%Head	100%Head	Drain	Harvest
Cocodrie	0000	0199	0687	1649	1789	2595	2875
Cypress	0000	0243	0836	1813	1953	2662	2942
Dixiebelle	0000	0295	1016	1783	1923	2559	2839
Drew	0000	0238	0822	2806	2946	2580	2860
Jacinto	0000	0276	0950	1761	1901	2694	2974
Jackson	0000	0240	0829	1609	1749	2499	2779
Jefferson	0000	0221	0762	1495	1635	2259	2539
Kaybonnet	0000	0237	0818	1698	1838	2444	2724
LaGrue	0000	0199	0686	1621	1761	2586	2866
Lemont	0000	0271	0935	1857	1997	2565	2845
Litton	0000	0264	0910	1782	1922	2627	2907
Madison	0000	0307	1059	1976	2116	2669	2949
Priscilla	0000	0269	0929	1736	1876	2608	2888
Rexmont	0000	0269	0927	1772	1912	2571	2851
Wells	0000	0234	0808	1850	1990	2610	2890

*You may get management practices associated with each rice growth stage by running your own Rice DD50 Program from the DREC - Weather/GIS Data Center web page at: <http://www.deltaweather.msstate.edu/>

Please contact us for more information at weather@drec.msstate.edu or 662.686.3275.

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