

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

Crop Conditions:

Planting is pretty much complete in the coastal region. Heavy rains drenched parts of Texas late last week, causing some losses, especially in late planted fields. Near Liberty, 19" of rain fell. Johnny Saichuk reports problems with Icon breakdown in some fields in Louisiana (see below).

In the Midsouth, wind remains a factor, delaying herbicide treatments and forcing growers in some cases to shift from conservation to conventional cropping where burndowns can't be made. As much as a third of the potential crop remains unplanted in some areas in Arkansas, but most of the region has managed to seed 80% to 90% of the crop.

Texas/S. La.

Arlen Klosterboer, Texas Extension Rice Specialist: "I think everyone is aware of the armyworms and is on top of the situation. We need to continue

to be careful and watch fields. It seems like the grassiest and weediest fields tend to be the worst. A small amount of rice may be at PD, and we're at a permanent flood on 75% to 80% of the crop."

David Mitchell, M&M Air Service, Beaumont, Texas: "Last week, we had two airplanes that did nothing but treat armyworms in rice, even spraying in a few fields as the permanent flood was going on. We were treating armyworms from the previous Saturday until it started raining last Friday. We're over the 60% mark on propanil applications. Last week we came back over a lot of the Command fields with broadleaf and aquatic herbicides. We flew on some rice last week, but we're essentially 100% planted now, have a permanent flood on 60% to 70% and have a small amount at PD."

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "We're getting reports of Icon breaking down

right at midseason in some fields, and I've confirmed that in one of my verification fields and in another location. Control isn't holding all the way. At times, we're picking up high counts but don't know exactly what that means. In the days with Furadan, we didn't sample after midseason. In the past, if you made it to midseason and didn't reach threshold, you didn't have to treat. We had clear, outstanding control with Icon last year, so it's been surprising to find root pruning. We don't know how many acres have been affected. I'm advising people to look closely at their situation. They might be able to wait it out if plants look nice and healthy and roots are fairly good, plus larvae are at the 4th or 5th instar where they're about to pupate and stop eating. If rice is on the other extreme and starting to fall over, especially with smaller instars, you've got to drain, even if you

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put out fertilizer yesterday. We're also dealing with a mystery disease that's not responding to P or K. Only draining seems to help. It's affecting quite a few fields in south Louisiana."

Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas: "We had a real siege with armyworms, but it's just about over now. We had to spray about a third of our acreage. The rains last week and over the weekend amounted to 2" to 4.5" in our area. Most everything is flooded. We've fertilized and have taken care of most of the weed and grass problems. Some of the earliest fields are just past PD."

Midsouth:

Nathan Slayton, Arkansas Extension Rice Specialist, Stuttgart, Ark.: "Grape colaspis or lezpedeza worm is taking out some stand in the Stuttgart area, and that's what I mainly looked at Monday. I assume it's happening in other areas but Stuttgart is where the calls are from right now. It's making some fields look pretty bad, especially on hill sides or where there are salt problems. There's nothing you can do in a field where you've got it. Icon is a preventative. Colaspis prunes root, so if plants get dry they will die. About the only measures you can take are to flush it to keep plants going and, if you can, pump a little starter fertilizer to it. It's really surprising how bad some of this rice looks considering how wet it's been in the area. Some fields

still haven't been planted, and some need to be replanted where too much rain hurt stands. Where rice was in better drained areas, stands are perfect. Overall, the crop looks decent. Fertilizer is going on and growers on putting on the flood. We're 91% planted, which is in line with the five-year average. But growers left with that final 10% have got to be nervous with all the delays, especially with more rain in the forecast."

Leslie McFadden, Ind. Consultant, Beedeville, Ark.: "We're 90% planted and 80% emerged with the early flood going on about 25%. Command has been working fine in some fields, but we're going back in cases where retreatments are necessary. The rain has been variable enough that some places stayed activated and others didn't. We've also got fields where it's been too windy to apply Command at all. The crop looks fairly good. We don't have any really poor stands, just some holes in places."

Hugh Whitby, Field Consultant, Agriliance, Parkin, Ark.: "We've planted about two-thirds of the crop, and probably a third of that will be ready for the flood late this week and early next week. We'll be putting out fertilizer and spraying if the wind quits blowing. We're okay right now if the wind will die down, but it could get critical on making pre-flood fertilizer and chemical applications if it doesn't let up. The rice that's up looks pretty good. Some is stressed from cold

nights with rain standing on it. A few armyworms are getting after the rice here and there, and we've sprayed wheat in a couple of cases where populations were heavy and we wanted to pick them up before they moved into adjoining rice. Grape colaspis is turning up, which is another reason we need to flood fields to take care of it. Wind has kept us from applying burndowns in some fields, and they're getting thick and weedy. We have 500 to 600 acres that will be worked up now."

Marvin Lott, Sales Rep, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Cleveland, Miss.: "We could use a little rain. Overall, the crop looks pretty decent. The crop is 90% planted, and most fields range from two leaves to having water put on them. Some Stam is going out but making applications with this wind has been tough."

Reynold Minsky, Minsky Consulting Service, Lake Providence, La.: "Rice looks good. We've got a stand on almost everything and are putting on our first fertilizer and Stam. Some Londax also is going out where we've got Mexican weed. We're treating borders with Karate at 1:80 for rice water weevils on our fields where seed wasn't treated with Icon. Three to four days after flood, we'll treat the whole field at 1:80, then recheck. Stinkbugs are so horrible in corn that we know we've got them coming in rice. It's normally hard to find stinkbugs, but you don't have any trouble locating them in some of corn fields around here."