

# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

## Overview:

Some heading has started. Scattered sheath blight has been reported. The Texas crop is generally described as good to excellent while the drought-plagued south Louisiana crop is termed fair.

Midsouth conditions vary. Showers continues to delay planting in parts of Arkansas. Heavy rains fell late last week in north-east Arkansas and the Missouri bootheel.

Several of our Midsouth contacts noted that they are dealing with less than ideal conditions for controlling escaped grass and broadleaf weeds. Some herbicide combinations haven't had the desired effect.

One crop advisor joked today that he was beginning to feel less like a rice consultant and more like a cotton consultant. "With rice, you're suppose to be able to tell the farmer what will work," he said. "But lately I've been sounding like a cotton consultant. I've been saying, 'Let's try this and see if it works.'"

## Texas/S. La.

**Arlen Klosterboer, Texas Extension Rice Specialist:** "Rice is still looking very, very good. We had scattered weekend showers that were of no real significance. There still are some scattered reports of armyworms."

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "We're finding light disease pressure. One field of Cocodrie I walked in Vermilion Parish today will need a fungicide. It's two weeks from 50% heading, and the idea is to hold off as long as possible. The farmer said he had a field of Maybelle in about the same condition. Seeing sheath blight right now is somewhat surprising as dry as it's been, but it's also very humid. We're still examining fields that had Icon-treated seed and now have weevil problems. We're still trying to determine what's happening, but the finger is pointing to heavy weevil pressure developing just as Icon is wearing off. Last week someone told me that he was looking at

fields with and without Icon, and both were being affected. But he said there still was a dramatic enough difference in how the rice looked that you could identify the Icon fields from the pickup."

**DeWayne Dopslauf, Agro Distributors, Wharton, Texas:** "All of my rice is going to PD, and we're putting on PD fertilizer applications. I'm hearing that some is just coming to head. A few signs of sheath blight have shown up, and I understand some farmers already are treating where rice is heading and they felt it was necessary. I've found it in one pocket in one of my grower's fields. Normally, it's mid-June before we really start treating. We've been getting little showers, and the heat has really been cooking things."

## Midsouth:

**Dan Roach, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.:** "Our only problem right now is the delay in treating fields due to high winds during the last week. Command is ba-

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sically gone, and we've got some grass escapes. We'll probably start applying OrDRAM next week. About 10% of mine is flooded already, and 50% is moving to the flood."

**Cecil Parker, Consultant, AgriServices Ltd., Vidalia, La.:** "A lot of herbicides are being delayed due to high winds. We've gotten a little out, but the grass is going to be too big in some cases, and we will finally have to OrDRAM those fields. A field near Ferriday had to be treated for chinch bugs where it was real dry and this was one of the last fields flushed. We're not seeing a lot of scarring or root pruning in Icon fields. We're about 50% flooded and about a week away from a permanent flood on most of the rest."

**Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.:** "I've seen some fields really grow up over the past two weeks where herbicides aren't working right, and we're attributing that to drought and low humidity. It's not a widespread situation, but it's frustrating where it's happened. Signal grass has been a real problem. We're looking at different combinations depending on what we've got in the field. We haven't been able to get propanil and a light rate of Facet to work on three-leaf signal grass like it did last year. It's stopping the grass but not killing it. In some no-till fields where we got Command out and had grass coming through, we didn't get good control with Touchdown or Roundup and think it may be due to growing conditions and stress caused to the grass by the drill. Rice seed is still going out the door — some for the first planting and some for levees. Rice water weevils look like they're going to be bad. We're see-

ing scars in rice that hasn't been flooded yet."

**Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist:** "Fertilizing and flooding are underway. We're hearing that a good percentage of growers may be able to go to flood without additional grass control treatments. There are some cases where growers didn't get burndown herbicides out, but most fields look pretty good. There's nothing pressing with insects. Armyworms are probably under control, and we haven't seen any real problems with rice water weevils yet."

**Kevin Fisher, Consultant, Pro-Ag Services, Wynne, Ark.:** We're 90% planted with everything from just coming up to some flooding underway. Around Truman, some rice is being drained for straighthead. With weather the way it's been, Command hasn't done exceptionally well, but it's worked pretty good. We're coming back with different combinations depending on size of grass and whether we've got nutsedge or smartweed."

**David Guethle, County Extension Agent/Rice, Dexter, Mo.:** "We're still drying out from 8" of rain that fell late last week. People were just getting levees up to flush. Rice looks pretty good. Wind died down after the rain moved through. We've had quite a bit of armyworm pressure in wheat."

**Nathan Slayton, Arkansas Extension Rice Specialist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** "We're getting a lot of calls right now about things that don't lend themselves to a good answer. That includes a lot of big grass salvage questions, treatment options for broadleaf weeds around cotton and how to get one-shot control in

some pretty overgrown situations. We're also getting calls about sick rice from high pH or deep water. And some guys who've had weather delays are still trying to figure out what to plant and asking how late they can plant and still expect a good crop. Rain last weekend was very spotty. Some areas around here got a half-inch or less while 5" to 8" fell along the Missouri line."

**Grady Coburn, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises, Cheneyville, La.:** "We've got some populations of weevils in non-Icon fields, and we're trying to take them out. The state has allowed us to use what little Furadan is left. Otherwise, we're going with Karate. We've been hearing about problems with Icon south of here, but it's holding up reasonably well in our area. We've got rice ranging from just planted to well past permanent flood. Between having showers too frequently in some areas and not frequently enough in other areas, we've had some headaches with our herbicide program. Nothing can be termed a disaster, just a headache."

**Lance Honeycutt, Craighead Farmers Co-op, Jonesboro, Ark.:** "We're seeing more Command injury than last year, which probably can be blamed on a little higher rate in some cases or applying it in fields where it shouldn't have been used. Luckily, we've been getting almost normal rainfall patterns, with showers every 7 to 10 days. That's kept us from spraying but it's also helped maintain residual activity. Right now, people are trying to spray where grass and broadleaves escaped. Maybe 10% to 15% of our crop is flooded. We got 4" of rain late last week."