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# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

## May 1, 2001

Most of our coverage area needs a rain, though parts of east Texas and southwest Louisiana received good showers in the last week. A significant amount of acreage in the Midsouth is being flushed to keep herbicides active, to trigger germination or to prompt emergence.

### Texas/S. La.:

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "We've had to treat a verification field with Karate for rice water weevils where the grower planted Icon-treated seed. That was in Allen Parish north of Crowley, and I got calls from a consultant and a grower in that area trying to make the same decision where they had high numbers of adults and damage. We treated one experimental field last year in the same situation, and it was the right decision. We don't have published thresholds in this case, but just standing up I could see maybe one adult for every three plants, so it was probably more like one adult for every two plants. That's a heavily wooded area, so we assume they overwintered pretty successfully. Overall, fields in the southwestern part of the state are

shaping up nicely. Lots of fields are moving toward green ring, so decisions are coming about whether to drain for straighthead or for water weevil control where no insecticides were used. Most parishes in the south are 100% planted."

**Arlen Klosterboer, Texas Extension Agronomist:** "We're 90% planted, at least, with 70% emerged. Some people are putting on permanent floods this week. Rice looks good to very good. We're still figuring 210,000 acres this year, plus or minus 5,000 acres. If there's an increase, it's east of Houston. Acreage stayed about the same or dropped slightly in other areas."

**DeWayne Dopslauf, Agro Distributors, Wharton, Texas:** "Things are going pretty good. We've got rice everywhere from just emerging to tillering. I've got growers flushing, some more than others. We had a lot of wind in April that really dried things out. A lot of this flushing is aimed at keeping herbicides activated, and we've got rice that needs the water to offset the dry conditions. We're checking for broadleaves and grass right now, and fertilizer is going out."

**Howard Cormier, Vermilion Parish Extension Agent, Abbeville,**

**La.:** "Out of 90,000-plus acres we're expecting this year, we're probably 95% planted, and we're generally at tillering or later. A couple of fields are approaching green ring. We're starting to see some rice water weevil damage. In one field last Thursday I was finding, on average, one per core, so I suspect we will drain some fields by midweek. We've been seeing adult damage for a while. The crop is looking good, though it just sat there for the longest time with the cold weather earlier. The good news right now is we have an adequate fresh water supply, so we will be able to drain. We got 2" to 6" of rain last week, and that helped flush saltwater out of canals and two big lakes in the lower end of the watershed. Compared to this time last year with our water problems, everything looks pretty optimistic except for the price."

### Midsouth:

**John Raymond Bassie, Bassie's Agri-Service, Cleveland, Miss.:** "The rice looks pretty good, at least where it's been flushed. We have some that needs it but hasn't been flushed yet. Growers are reluctant to start the pumps. I found chinch bugs today (Monday) in some rice and

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milo, and they're going to do some serious damage if it stays hot and dry. We're still planting rice, cotton and soybeans, and we're in the 70% to 75% range of having all three crops planted. I was checking records and found that very little of our rice had emerged before May 5 last year. We're going into May this year with more than half of it already emerged."

**Ted Miller, Triple-M Agronomics, Leland, Miss.:** "There's no prospect for rain before this weekend, and most growers are close to flushing to get rice up, start germination or activate herbicides. I don't know anybody who's not gearing up right now to flush at least some rice. We've probably planted 70% of the crop, and 20% to 25% has emerged. The rice looks good but needs water to start it growing again, and very few levees have had enough moisture to gain a stand. I'm telling my growers to start flushing and keep running the water until the ground is as wet in front of the flushing as it is behind it. Otherwise, we could be in for delayed emergence or stand problems."

**Ron Cox, Tri-County Farmers Association, Brinkley, Ark.:** "We're probably 80% planted. South of town we're in good shape, but north of here the fields are getting dry and needing to be flushed to reactivate herbicides. We're about 60% emerged. In fields that didn't have Command, rice has gotten the first treatment with propanil or something similar."

**Larry Crigler, Agro Distributors, Marks, Miss.:** "We've got plants at two-leaf and spiked tip, and some fields are being flushed right now to gain emergence. We're about 50% planted and 10% emerged. Rain moved in earlier and held us out of the field. We're facing the prospect of flushing some stands but will wait to get the levees seeded. Our rice acreage dropped dramatically with changes in crop insurance. We're probably down 46%, based on what

growers and others are telling me here and in surrounding counties. The shift is to cotton."

**Bruce Beck, Extension Regional Agronomist/Rice, Butler, Mo.:** "We're praying for rain. There's a bunch of flushing going on now, and that's not too normal for southeastern Missouri. And we probably should be flushing more fields than we are right now. The state is about 75% planted, and there was no reason to stop planting except we ran out of moisture and there was too much dust. Usually by May 1, we're closer to 40% planted. My guess is that 15% has emerged out of the acreage planted so far."

**Brad Burkett, Consultant, Lawhon Farm Service, McCrory, Ark.:** "Every field I've walked out of today will have to be flushed. That's the way the world is turning right now. If there's a stand, we have enough deep moisture to keep it growing, but the soil closer to the surface is too dry to trigger germination. A majority of this acreage has Command on it, too, so the grower will get to activate his herbicide. We've got situations where there hasn't been enough rainfall to activate the herbicide to the point that it will pick up weeds that have emerged. Last year with the rain we had it was taking out some two-leaf grass, but we haven't had enough rain to even take out the one-leaf grass. It's been enough to keep anything else from breaking through, but we're having to go back with 3 quarts of Super Wham and in cases adding 2 pints of Bolero or a quarter-pound of Facet. We're hoping to knock down what's there and gain enough residual activity to carry us to flood. We're 90% to 95% planted, which is farther along that I can ever remember for May 1. At the earliest, we're at least two and probably more like three weeks from a flood."

**Brad Koen, Area Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:**

"Where the rice is up, it looks pretty good. But we're dry, extremely dry, and the weatherman in Little Rock says this has been the driest April on record. I've been as far south today (Tuesday) as the Louisiana line, and it's the same all over the state. People are flushing rice to help plants break through or to start germination. We've also got flushing to reactivate Command or Facet. Subsoil moisture is good, we're just drying out on top. We're up to 80% to 90% planted in many areas compared to 60% to 70% that's more normal for this time of the year. According to our planting date studies, our best yields tend to come from early- and mid-April plantings, so that's a positive point. So far, herbicides seem to be doing a pretty good job, and it seems to be going well where guys are flushing. But we have some fields that should be flushed but haven't been yet. I looked at a field today in Ashley County where the farmer applied Command but didn't flush, and he's got 3-leaf signalgrass."

**Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist, Stoneville, Miss.:** "A lot of growers are trying to flush to get the rice up. I'm seeing that this week every place I've been. The rice in a lot of fields is leafing out under the soil surface, and we've got to get it out from under that crust and into daylight. The rice that is up looks pretty good. Weed control is good in places, not so good in others. In general, the crop looks pretty clean. We're probably 70% planted and 50% of that has emerged. People are still planting as hard as they can."