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# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

## April 23, 2002

More fields are going to permanent flood in Texas and coastal Louisiana. In the Midsouth, planting progress varies from as little as 10% in southeastern Missouri to 80% or more in areas in Arkansas.

Parts of the Midsouth have dried out to the point that flushing will start soon if it doesn't rain. Several of our Midsouth contacts also noted this week that fields have generally gained quick stands in the warm growing conditions.

The following reports were made on Tuesday, April 23.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Owen Taylor, Editor

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## Texas/Coastal La.:

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "Based on what we're seeing this week, it's probably going to take two applications of Karate or Fury to control water weevils in pinpoint flooded fields that didn't have Icon-treated seed. We've got a lot of young rice,

and there's ample time for reinfestation. Today (Tuesday) we had to schedule a second treatment on a field treated with Fury where the whole field wasn't sprayed right and more weevils came into the field. It wasn't an efficacy problem. We've got another verification field that will get a second treatment as soon as more adults build. We're real pleased with a Regiment and Aim combination in one verification field and had good results with Londax in another demonstration. Herbicides are working well. It's nice and warm, and we're treating weeds while they're small. We still don't have as much grass pressure as broadleaf pressure, probably due to wetter conditions earlier that kept grass suppressed. One field we looked at today has some phytotoxicity injury after Londax and Facet, and we'll drain it to clear up the problem."

**DeWayne Dopslauf, Agrilience, Wharton, Texas:** "Our rice is ranging from three-leaf up to almost tillering. We've had some escapes through Command, and broadleaves are coming on strong in places. We had such a cold spring that the rice

came up and just stood there. The last two weeks have really been the warmest growing period we've had. In one place where we've had escapes with Command, we had 5" to 6" of rain, and I think the material moved down the field and left areas unprotected. We're fertilizing and have some rice that's maybe 10 days or so from permanent flood."

**Keith Normand, Extension Agent, St. Landry Parish, Opelousas, La.:** "We've had a good planting season, and the crop is off to a fine start. In the last week or so we've been fertilizing, applying herbicides and putting the permanent flood on some of the older rice. This is about a normal time here to start the permanent flood."

## Midsouth:

**Dan Roach, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.:** "My growers are 30% to 40% planted, on average, and one or two are through by now. I've got a couple of fields up to a stand. We got a rain early Monday morning but could use more. If we could get one tonight (Tuesday) that would

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sure help. We can go from a lot of moisture right now down to none in seven days with the conditions we've had lately. Pretty much everything is Cocodrie. Based on what my farmers are saying, 80% to 90% of our crop will be in that one variety."

**Rudy Randleman, Rudy's Field Service, Paragould, Ark.:** "Our acreage is going to be down just a little. We're about 60% planted. We started on April 12 or 13, and last week was a good planting period. I had some that I started the DD50s on in eight to nine days. Where rice has emerged, the biggest is at one leaf. We hit it right with planting. It's been nice and warm. Soil moisture conditions range from medium to dry, and everyone is working and planting, but we're ready for a little shower if develops. A little cotton has been planted, but the cotton people are mostly holding off for better moisture. If it doesn't rain right away, we could be 90% finished with rice planting by the end of the week, and we'll plant and flush if necessary."

**Keith Collins, Richland Parish Extension Agent, Rayville, La.:** "Some rice is being planted, but we're not into it in a big way yet. Burndown treatments have been made on a pretty wide basis. We'll see more planting starting this week, and it will be going wide open next week. I only know of one field planted early enough to have been subjected to any of the cold weather. Very few fields are up to a stand. Maybe 10% has been planted through this area. Cocodrie will be the predominate variety, without a doubt."

**Ross Wood, Certified Crop Advisor, Almyra Farmers, Almyra, Ark.:** "We've got rice ranging from spiking out of the ground to the two-

to three-leaf stage. Out of the rice I expect my growers to have, 85% to 95% of it is planted. We've got Command on 80% of the acreage, and it's not holding. We're coming back and respraying everything with a light rate of propanil and Facet while the vegetation is small. Rain is in the forecast for tonight and a few more times this week. If we miss the rain, we'll have to flush. The lespedeza worm is about to eat us up, and we need some water to knock it back. More Wells than Cocodrie is being planted. After that it's mainly Lagrue, then Ahrent and Francis."

**Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.:** "We're planting rice right now. Last week we planted about 500 acres. Conditions are somewhat dry, and we'll have to start flushing the rice planted the first of last week if we don't get a rain tonight or tomorrow. Some areas around Glendora and Swan Lake got an inch of rain, but this immediate area got a tenth of an inch or less. We planted some Clearfield 161, and it came out of the ground faster than Wells. Wells has a reputation for coming up quick, but this was ahead of it. Cocodrie is spiking through. None of my customers are planting rice yet. In a lot of cases they're trying to work over the ruts left from late cotton harvest on some heavy ground last year. We're expecting them to swing into planting rice this week."

**Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist, Stoneville, Miss.:** "Rice is coming up. If anything, it's emerging a little quicker than some folks expected. In one field, Priscilla was planted into moisture last Tuesday and it was up by this Monday -- just six days. I've been

in a few fields where it emerged before they could make burndown treatments. Growers maybe didn't get back to spray as fast as they hoped and then got delayed by rain. In some cases where most of the rice still hasn't emerged I expect growers to make burndown treatments and sacrifice some of the rice. Overall, we're probably 60% planted, but some people are still trying to decide how much to finally plant, whether they will plant rice at all or find out whether they'll even get financing."

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** "We're about 40% planted across the state, up from about 10% last week, so a lot of progress has been made. I've talked to a few farmers who are through planting. So far, everything is looking good. Maybe 12% to 13% has emerged. Warm weather last week prompted it to come up quickly, but we've got a cool front coming into the state, and that will probably slow it down some. But we also should pick up some rain, which we could use right now. Southeast Arkansas got a half-inch, but most of the rest of the state is dry or about to be. We're seeing some grass coming through in northeast Arkansas, and they're spraying where they can."