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# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

June 18, 2002

Texas/S. La.

Here is this week's issue of **RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas**, brought to you by Valent U.S.A., maker of Regiment and Bolero.

A reminder: **RiceFax** is available by e-mail. Let us know if you want to switch to our electronic edition. Our Midsouth cotton and soybean reports also are available.

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## Overview

The earliest rice in Texas and coastal Louisiana is a little more than a month away from harvest, our contacts this week estimated. Sheath blight is present but not a runaway problem in that part of our coverage area. Stinkbugs are being treated.

In the Midsouth, more midseason applications are being made. The earliest rice is 7-10 days from heading. Stinkbugs remain a concern. Several of our Midsouth contacts this week noted stinkbug populations poised to jump on early heads.

These reports were made Monday and Tuesday.

**Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas:**

"We've got quite a lot of rice heading out, and we're checking for stinkbugs. They've been migrating into rice because everything else is so dry. We've already sprayed some fields, and several more fields are lined up to be sprayed today (Tuesday), and I'm on my way to check some more. We're mainly treating with Karate or Fury.

"We've been treating some sheath blight, but it hasn't been progressing very fast. It's been a light year for it, so far. Humidity is light, the wind is blowing and we've had bright sunshine. Some seed fields have been treated along with fields that have a bad history of sheath blight, but there are no real outbreaks. We've also got grasshoppers and armyworms in some of the younger rice.

"We're expecting some rice planted in February to be cut within a month or by the end of July. I've been encouraging my growers to start working on their combines."

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley,**

**La.:** "We're spraying for stinkbugs. They're not terribly bad but they are very common. It's about a typical level for this time of the season. Some fields have been treated and were cleaned up pretty good. Karate and Fury are mainly being used, along with some methyl. Malathion is going out in situations with crawfish ponds.

"We're still picking up a little more blast here and there in Wells. Sheath blight pressure is moderate to light. A lot of the rice we were concerned about at PI when the cold weather hit in May is heading out pretty good. A few blanks are evident, but the heads are okay for the most part. A lot of rice is in flower and some is already turning down. The crop is moving along, and we may see a little harvest starting in the second week of July and more beginning in the third week."

## Midsouth

**Jay Coker, Consultant/Grower, DeWitt, Ark.:** "People are pleased with the progress rice has made in the last 10-14 days. We've had favorable

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growing conditions, and the wind has been relatively calm, so the flying services have been on very manageable schedules. Over the last 3 weeks rice has had a chance to respond to pre-flood N, and we're getting into midseason. The rice is finally green-ing up.

"There are problems out there, but they're somewhat masked by plant height. We've got thin stands and un-even development in spots. Lespe-deza worms have hurt in some cases. The cool weather brought out zinc deficiency problems, and damp con-ditions wicked up salt. But consider-ing all the early problems with this crop, it still looks much better."

**John Raymond Bassie, Bassie's Agri-Service, Cleveland, Miss.:** "I'm not seeing anything in rice right now. I've got all my herbicide treat-ments wrapped up except for one late field, and our last dose of fertilizer is going out on Cocodrie and the first shot is out on what little Lemont I have."

**Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist, Stoneville, Miss.:** "Rice is moving fast. Midseason seems to have caught a lot of people by surprise, so some fertil-izer applications are going out a little later than they should. Otherwise, the rice is growing well and looking much better. We're seeing some prob-lems with phosphorous and potash that haven't been fully explained. Soil tests say there's plenty there but tis-sue tests are showing deficiencies. We've seen more of this around Cleveland, but that may be because more of our rice is around there. But it's also turned up in the Greenwood area. It's something we're still sort-ing through."

**Keith Collins, Richland Parish Extension Agent, Rayville, La.:** "We're in pretty good shape. Probably 80% of our rice is flooded. What's left is our later planted rice, and most of that will be ready to flood in 7-10

days. We've had some very good growing conditions through northeast Louisiana recently. Water weevils are showing up, and everybody who didn't use Icon is treating immedi-ately after flood or certainly within a week of it."

**Chuck Farr, Mid-South Ag Consultants, Crawfordsville, Ark.:** "We're making midseason applica-tions on about 20% of our rice, and the rest should follow in the next 10 days. The thing that concerns me is that we have rice only 2-3 weeks away from heading and nearly every field I walk is at threshold for stink-bugs. They're just waiting for this rice to head."

**Curt Johnson, Agronomy Pro-duction Specialist, Agrilience Tech Services, Dermott, Ark.:** "We're just putting on midseason. We're also spotting around edges for grass with Regiment or Clincher and looking for coffeebeans. Our Ordram use is off. Instead of blanketing the field with 25-30 lbs/acre, we're flying on either Regiment or Clincher, and the pilots are only spot spraying the grass where it's showing through the rice.

"We'll start intensifying our dis-ease scouting in the next 10-12 days as soon as we get the midseason ni-trogen finished. Rice stinkbugs aren't really showing up. When the rice was small I was seeing them, which was strange for them to be out in num-bers at that point in the season. Now, though, I don't think I've seen one in the last 10 days. It's kind of eerie to suddenly not find them after they were so apparent a few weeks ago. Rice water weevils also have been scarce. I've recommended treatment on 2% to 5% of my fields."

**Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.:** "We're getting out some Regiment today on what I call the Black Forest. We've got junglerice that's grown into trees in one 15-acre paddy. It survived Gramoxone and 2 shots of Arrosolo, which didn't seem

to work as well due to the cool weather. The spot is a problem every year, and we're interested in seeing how this works. We're also spot spray-ing some Facet."

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** "A lot of midseason is going out. We've got joints starting to move. Zinc deficiency is getting attention. I've been looking at some symptoms that are showing up kind of late. The last week, in fact, was mostly spent on this and problems similar to it.

"We've got unconfirmed reports of blast in the state in Wells and Ben-gal. We need to be watching for it and be ready to pump up the flood if it appears. It's time to start watching for sheath blight, too. I haven't heard a lot about it yet.

"Let's remember stinkbug man-agement, too. We need to make sure we have barnyardgrass controlled in the field before heading so we're not hosting a resident population of the insects in the field when rice becomes vulnerable. And we've either got to mow field edges now and keep them mowed or not mow them at all. Mow-ing now denies stinkbugs a gathering point. Waiting too long to mow will force stinkbugs into the rice at the wrong time. Overall, we've seen that fields with cleanly mowed edges have less stinkbug pressure than fields that have grown up borders.

"Once that rice starts heading we need to scout and count. We recom-mend using a sweep net. For the first 2 weeks after heading starts, our threshold is 5 per 10 sweeps. In the second 2 weeks after heading it's 10 per 10.

"Everyone should be concerned this season about pecky rice. Stink-bugs cause a little yield loss but they can hurt us on quality and make rice unsuitable for parboiling. We can't afford to gain a reputation for pecky rice, and controlling stinkbugs is the way to avoid it."