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RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

June 4, 2002

Here is this week's issue of *RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas*, sponsored by Valent U.S.A., maker of Regiment and Bolero. A reminder: we also publish Midsouth cotton and soybean reports. Let us know if you would like to receive those reports.

Owen Taylor, Editor

owen@agfax.com 601-992-9488

Overview

Blast and sheath blight are turning up a little in south Louisiana (see Johnny Saichuck's comments on this page). In the Midsouth the crop is responding well to increasingly warmer weather. More rice is going to flood. A few midseason fertilizer applications have started in the south Delta. Bayer has gained labels for Gem and Stratego rice fungicides.

The following reports were made Tuesday, June 4.

Texas/Coastal La.

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "We started picking up blast early last week and the next day found sheath blight in a field. We're in a pat-

tern setting us up for disease. We're having little thundershowers, plus humidity early in the morning and wet canopies until noon or later. Blast for the most part is in Bengal. Sheath blight, so far, is in long grains, like Cypress and Cocodrie.

"We're looking for pretty bad stink-bug pressure, based on populations in bordering areas. I've got a few reports of little heads popping out here and there, but for the most part we don't have headed rice yet. We do need to be scouting closely for sheath blight and blast. One bright spot on the disease front this season is that we have a couple of new tools with Gem and Stratego gaining labels now.

"So far, sheath blight isn't widespread, but that may change this week. It turned up last week in an area where I normally don't expect it to be a problem."

DeWayne Dopslauf, Agrilience, Wharton, Texas: "Everything is pretty slow, and we will start checking for disease now. We're about through with all our PD shots. We're pleased with our stands. The crop is a little earlier than normal, but everybody got it in earlier, too. My most advanced fields are probably PD+5."

Midsouth

Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.: "We've got rice at every stage from still in the sack to some that's a few days from green ring. We're still shipping rice out the door, mostly for replanting or patching in spots, but one grower still has 300 acres to plant. There's also a little interest in planting rice behind wheat. All the rice on our farm is flooded, and 25% of the acreage I check is flooded.

"I've had more calls than usual about sick rice, mainly where cold weather brought out fertility problems, but there still are some mystery situations. We're not dealing with insects. We sold more Icon this year than ever. I'm hearing about grape colaspis, but not where growers used Icon.

"We've been using a lot of Regiment. It's been working super, killing big smartweed and taking out tillering barnyardgrass. We've seen some good activity with Regiment and a reduced rate of Permit. Also, we've been adding a little Facet to enhance signalgrass control and gain some residual.

"We've started doing a lot of side inlet irrigation. One employee asked

Continued on next page

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why we didn't start this years ago, it's made the job much easier. One grower said he's flooding some fields now as fast as he can flush them. We've been working water across faster to get Bolerio activated, and we're flooding up to a day sooner. Savings in fuel pays for the polypipe."

Scott Holder, Helena Chemical Co., Cleveland, Miss.: "This hot weather has really pushed the rice. Cold weather set it back, and it was looking yellow and brown. But when it finally warmed up it didn't take but a few days before fields greened up nicely. I'm 50% flooded now, with another 25% going to a flood in the next 7-10 days. Some of our older Cocodrie is steaming toward midseason pretty good. We've put some Fury on water weevils where we found scars."

Hugh Whitby, Rice Consultant, Agrilience, Blackfish, Ark.: "It's finally dried up enough that we can make progress with herbicides, fertilizer and pumping. Only about 15% of our rice is pumped up to a flood so far. We've got some grape colaspis. Some people are spraying and then flooding up. If the rice is small we're putting out ammonium sulfate or DAP then flushing across it.

"We've seen salt problems in some fields once we flooded. We also have a lot of rice under water from the St. Francis, and I think it's pretty much gone. My growers have 1,800 acres in that situation. Overall, though, our rice looks 100% better than it did last week and much better than 2 weeks ago."

Ron Cox, Tri-County Farmers Association, Brinkley, Ark.: "We're putting our pre-flood nitrogen on and making cleanup herbicide treatments. Pumping started on a little acreage late last week, and it has a flood now. We're pumping on most of the rest of it now. About 90% of our rice was planted within a 15- to 20-day period starting about April 5, so everything is ready at once. There are enough chemicals stacked up to keep the planes flying for two or three days. The wind is okay

today (Tuesday) but it shut us down yesterday at noon."

Larry Crigler, Agrilience, Marks, Miss.: "We're fertilizing and flooding up, finally. About 65% is to that point now. A lot of folks went with straight Command and have been coming back with Facet. Keeping herbicides activated hasn't been a problem here. In May they were reactivated on a daily basis."

Keith Collins, Richland Parish Extension Agent, Rayville, La.: "We've finally got some good growing conditions. Fertilizer is going out, and we're establishing the flood. With warm weather over the last week the rice has really been jumping. No more than 15% of our rice in NE Louisiana is flooded, but in 2 weeks that will be a different story.

"Water weevils are definitely present. Where unflooded fields have puddling from rain we've found adults and egg masses, and there's scarring everywhere. If seeds weren't treated with Icon we're coming back with Karate or Fury after the flood."

Keith Baioni, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Hollandale, Miss.: "We're making a lot of our pre-flood treatments, getting fields cleaned up and putting on a flood. We've got midseason applications going out on some of our earliest planted rice. A good deal of our seed was treated with Icon. Where it wasn't used we're putting out Fury either with pre-flood cleanup treatments or as soon as we establish the flood. We've put out enough Regiment now to know it's doing a good job. It's taken out some big grass. We also put out some Clincher last week, but it's too early to tell how it's doing.

"The rice looks good. This warm weather is making it grow, and it's taking in the fertilizer and greening up well. I think everyone feels relieved now that the cool weather is behind us and we're seeing real progress with this crop."

John Hedden, Consultant, Lawhon Farm Service, McCrory,

Ark.: "Our rice is pretty much planted, and 50% to 60% is either flooded or going to a flood. This May was unique in terms of the amount of sick rice we had due to cold weather, herbicide damage and salt. With warmer conditions the last couple of weeks it's finally turned around.

"Soil applied herbicides held well. Our few Regiment fields have looked good. I don't think barnyardgrass will ever be a problem again. It looks like 100% control. Fertilizer applications are really building up. I've set up quite a few, and we're probably a day or two behind on that. When the ground finally dried out everybody was ready to get fertilizer out and go to a flood."

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.: "A lot of our rice is looking better, much better. More fields are receiving fertilizer and being flooded up. The rice is responding well. I'm seeing more zinc deficiency. We looked at 2 fields last week and I've already visited four more today (Tuesday).

"Most fields have gotten past grape colaspis concerns and are growing better. Rice water weevil is the next thing we'll be watching. Two of our research verification fields have been treated this week for water weevils. They're in Cross and Mississippi Counties. We were finding 90% leaf scar levels in some spots, with 60% being the threshold. It wasn't hard to find weevils in the fields, either.

"A lot of folks are trying to figure out a way to use Regiment. We've got quite a bit of Duet going out and some Duet and Facet tankmixes and even some Duet spiked with a little Permit."

Also...

* Last week we misidentified Arkansas Extension Plant Pathologist Rick Cartwright as Rick Carter.

* LSU and Louisiana Farm Bureau are sponsoring a farm bill conference June 14 in Alexandria. For details: <http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/subjects/farbill>