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# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

May 14, 2002

Here is this week's issue of *RiceFax: Midsouth*, sponsored by Valent U.S.A., maker of Regiment and Bolero. We also publish Midsouth cotton and soybean reports. Let us know if you want to be added to those lists.

Owen Taylor, Editor

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## Overview

More rice in south Louisiana and Texas is at or past green ring.

In the Midsouth, a few fields have gone to permanent flood. More would be ready, but rains have kept fields too wet to wrap up pre-flood work. That's mainly true from the Arkansas-Louisiana line north. A few areas have picked up 5" to 9" of rain in the last 2 weeks, counting showers on Sunday and Monday.

Louisiana and the south Delta, though, remain mostly dry. Some Louisiana fields have been flushed twice already.

## Texas/Coastal La.

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

**La.:** "I've heard about some more fields drained where water weevils have become a problem. Some of this is behind Icon and some isn't. We've had complaints about the crop running ahead of the DD50 predictions. But where I've checked with updated weather information it's within 2-3 days, which is within the range of accuracy for this. With this exceptionally warm weather -- until the last couple of days -- we've been accumulating more heat units than the program normally expects.

"A lot of topdressing is underway. A good deal of rice is at green ring and beyond. A fair amount of Clincher has gone out. I just came out of a field with Regiment, and it looked good."

**DeWayne Dopslauf, Agrilience, Wharton, Texas:** "The rice looks real good. We're doing our last broadleaf spraying and putting out fertilizer, and all my rice has been going to a flood last week and this week. One of our customer's fields is at green ring.

"It's still very dry, and it's been that way for 6 weeks. People are watering corn and even watering some milo. Cotton is doing okay, but corn

is taking a beating. It doesn't have a lot of brace roots, so when the ground gets wet the wind blows it first one way and then the other.

"We've had a lot of escapes with Command, and there's been a good deal of Facet and propanil going out. Regiment has been doing a good job on barnyardgrass. We've had a little more money in our herbicide program than expected. What hurt us more than anything was the cool early conditions. Everything slowed down but the grass, and it kept growing."

## Midsouth

**Keith Collins, Richland Parish Extension Agent, Rayville, La.:** "We continue to be dry and haven't had widespread rain since April 7. I've got gauges across the parish, and the most rain recorded early this week was .5". Isolated areas last Thursday caught up to an inch, but that only helped a few farmers. We've already flushed some rice twice. The Command seems to be holding up pretty good, but we need rain to help us maintain soil moisture."

**Rusty Elston, Consultant, Pest Management Enterprises,**

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**Cheneyville, La.:** "We're 85% planted, putting a permanent flood on the first of it and are in the middle of our pre-flood herbicide work. It looks like we have a lot of weevil pressure, and we're getting the first applications on now. Overall, the rice is growing well, and things are moving along on a timely basis."

**John Hedden, Consultant, Lawhon Farm Service, McCrory, Ark.:** "In the last 5-6 days, we've gotten 3" of rain in the south part of our area and 1" to 1.5" to the north. We're making early herbicide applications, putting out some Facet, Superwham, Arrosolo and a little Regiment here and there where we started reaching three leaves this week. We've seen pretty good Command activity on later rice, but we had breakthroughs on early rice and had to do quite a bit of spraying on that. We're probably 2 weeks from our earliest floods."

**Larry Crigler, Agrilliance, Marks, Miss.:** "We still have about 10% of our expected crop left to plant and also have a very small amount flooded. In between that we've got rice just planted to emerged and some that we're just fertilizing. We've been trying to work between showers. In the last week the rain has totaled 7.5". We've got some river flooding from the rain and releases from local reservoirs. Only 40% of our soybeans are planted and 75% of our cotton has been planted, but 10% of that will have to be replanted."

**Ron Cox, Tri-County Farmers Association, Brinkley, Ark.:** "We're 100% planted and mostly up to a stand. Rains in the last week were a lifesaver. We had a lot of Command on the ground and were getting some escapes. We treated a good percentage of those fields with propanil and propanil-Facet combinations to clean up escapes, but everything is in pretty good shape now. It was bone dry through April, but we've picked up 2.7" of rain in the last 2 weeks."

**Scott Holder, Helena Chemical**

**Co., Cleveland, Miss.:** "We're maybe 65% to 70% planted. We flooded a small amount last week. Quite a bit of our early rice should be moving toward the flood, but we keep getting rain. We picked up .2" to .3" around Cleveland today (Monday) and .5" north of Shelby, and last Thursday we had .5" to 2" through that area on top of heavy rains the week before that."

**Hugh Whitby, Rice Consultant, Agrilliance, Blackfish, Ark.:** "We need about 2 more weeks of dry weather. For the last month we've gotten .5" to 1" of rain at least once a week. We've had to start and stop a good deal, and we've still got about a third of our rice left to plant. If it dries up we could put a permanent flood on our earliest rice by the end of this week or early next week. A month ago we were running pivots just to get milo up."

**Kevin Fisher, Consultant, Pro-Ag Services, Wynne, Ark.:** "We got .5" to 1.5" of rain Sunday night, and that's on top of 1" to 2" in places last week. We've gone from the extremes of being too dry to too wet. Last week we expected by this time to be evaluating herbicide treatments on our earliest fields and putting the flood on them. Most of our rice is at two to four leaves."

"We sprayed some armyworms last week where they were moving out of wheat into adjoining rice and milo. I was lucky enough to catch them before they made it past the outside levee or the first couple of rows in the milo."

**Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.:** "It's as wet as wet can get. We've caught all the rain that's come through this month, and some areas just north of us got 5" to 7".

"One grower in Quitman County has rice that will have to be replanted where the Tallahatchie River flooded the lower half of a 40-acre field. The top half of the field has two-leaf rice, and the bottom half has been under

water for 10 days. We're 90% planted in our immediate area, but Quitman County has been delayed. We may see some land intended for rice there shift to soybeans."

"We're about 2 weeks from permanent flood on our earliest rice here. Everybody wants to spray and get fertilizer out, but it's too wet right now to get anything done."

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** "We've got about 90% of the crop planted. Most places right now are too wet to plant. There were fields that had been scheduled for fertilizer, then we got another .5" to 1" of rain Sunday night."

"Seedling disease is showing up in some fields, but it's probably a more complex situation than simply disease. This is being found mainly in stale seedbed and no-till production, and it's mostly west of Crowley's Ridge in Poinsette and Cross Counties and some in Arkansas County and maybe Lonoke County."

"In some cases we're finding grape colaspis damage and areas with chinchbugs. That, combined with salt problems in some fields and cold conditions, may have given seedling disease an opening. This is pretty bad in places."

**Keith Baioni, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., Hollandsale, Miss.:** "We've got some rice going to flood. It's not much, less than 10%. But 15% to 20% will be going that way next week. A lot of our rice is just at the 2- to 4-leaf stage right now. We're making post-emerge chemical applications. It's been tough doing it, though, especially with corn in adjoining fields. We've had some treatments on the books for 3 weeks. We have gotten a break in the weather today (Tuesday). The wind is out of the north and isn't suppose to get above 5 mph, so we should be able to make some progress."