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RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

May 7, 2002

Here is this week's issue of *RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas*, sponsored by Valent U.S.A., maker of Regiment and Bolero. We also publish reports covering Midsouth cotton and soybeans. To receive those reports, fax a request to 601-992-3503 or e-mail owen@agfax.com. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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Overview

The coastal portions of our coverage area continue to be mostly dry. Wind is limiting herbicide application schedules in Texas.

A wide part of our Midsouth coverage area -- from the Louisiana line north -- received at least some rain last week.

Isolated areas recorded 6" to 7", but accumulations of 1" to 3" were more commonly reported.

A few early fields are going to flood in the Midsouth.

The following reports were made Monday and Tuesday, May 6-7.

Texas/Coastal La.

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "We're moving toward top dressing now, and things should calm down after that. The crop looks pretty decent, but conditions are dry. We're 9" to 12" under where we should be for rain this year, and some growers are getting nervous about surface water availability where they're draining for straighthead or weevils.

"We've documented some Icon failure on verification fields and have drained them, reflooded and top dressed them. There were some other fields where people thought there had been failures, but we don't think that was the case. We've sprayed some verification fields twice now for water weevils where Icon wasn't used.

"We've got quite a bit of Regiment going out by itself and in treatments with Aim. It looks good. We put some Regiment on some Facet-resistant barnyardgrass. We continue to remind applicators to follow the labels regarding restrictions about dressing the ends of fields with these new materials."

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

"For the last week or two we've been doing lots of spraying and flooding up. We've got a large part of our crop under flood now and are still trying to get some cleaned up with the final herbicide application. We've been having to spray for grass, broadleaf weeds, alligator weed, sedges and escaped barnyardgrass. Almost every field has had a different twist, and we've been using a tankmix on almost all of it.

"We've been using quite a bit of Regiment by itself and in combination with Permit. We started earlier with Aim, including some combinations with propanil and Grandstand at reduced rates to reduce injury with that combination. We switched over to Regiment as we got closer to the flood because it gets barnyardgrass and the broadleaves we found.

"We've had a good deal of wind, and that's worked against complete penetration in the rice. It's been a matter of squeezing in a little spraying early in the morning and then switching over to fertilizing. It's been

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a little touchy, but I think we're getting the job done.

"Rice is looking good. We've had plenty of heat units and warm nights. We've had mid 70s for nighttime temperatures. The rice is really jumping, and things have dried out pretty rapidly. We had some leaves rolling a bit before we could get the flood on, which usually happens a little when too much is ready to flood at once.

"We've been seeing some pretty good levels of water weevil feeding scars and have been doing a little insecticide work where we didn't use Icon. Some treatments were mixed with our final herbicide application."

Midsouth

Chuck Farr, Mid-South Ag Consultants, Crawfordsville, Ark.:

"We're probably 90% planted. Of that, 50% is up to a stand. Just about every acre that's up was flushed to a stand. Rice that wasn't flushed will be up after all the rain. What Command we used looks good so far, but this isn't a big Command area. We've been mainly going with Facet and Prowl, Facet and Bolero or Facet alone. We got from .8" up to 2.75" of rain last week. The heaviest rains were in the Marion area."

John Raymond Bassie, Bassie's Agri-Service, Cleveland, Miss.:

"Our rice looks good, although some is awfully grassy. Roundup wasn't applied on some fields for one reason or another, so you can imagine how they look.

"We were going to start flushing today (Monday) but got a perfect flushing from the rain last week. Totals varied. It rained .8" of an inch south of Shaw and 3" in Cleveland. Around Duncan, it totaled 7.8".

"My oldest rice has two leaves on it now. We've got a lot of interest in Regiment here and are waiting to get to that three-leaf stage. There's no doubt it will kill barnyardgrass. Some

people will use it as a salvage, but we're going to get in before it reaches that point."

Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist, Stoneville, Miss.: "Some areas got a lot of rain, but it didn't hit everywhere. I've been in three fields today (Tuesday) that need to be flushed. They're drying out. I'm seeing some thin stands in places and grass coming through the Command in places. Even where some areas got rain the fields have been drying out faster than expected.

"I saw some grape colaspis damage today near Moorhead in a field that had been in irrigated soybeans last year. We're still planting rice, and we've got a small amount flooded where fields were planted around the first of April."

Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:

"We're wet in a lot of areas. They measured 4" in Stuttgart and 3" at the research station. Some rice in the Arkansas River Valley missed the rain, but most of our production areas got at least .5".

"The rain was a blessing. A lot of fields needed to be flushed. I was hearing a few reports before the rain about grape colaspis, and folks were trying to figure out how to clean up the grass that was coming through.

"According to the DD50s, we ought to be ready to fertilize and flood our earliest rice late this week or early next week, so we need to finalize decisions about pre-flood herbicides and get started this weekend if the weather and wind are right.

"My colleagues are reporting that rice stinkbugs are pretty heavy in wheat fields. This is something we've got to monitor closely. It may not be economically beneficial to the wheat to treat stinkbugs there, although stinkbugs can injure wheat in the milk or soft dough stage. But it might help hold down some of the pressure

in rice if those numbers were reduced now."

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.:

"We've got some rice emerged and some up to two leaves now. But a lot is just getting planted, and we might have to flush up some. It's dry enough here that a couple of my farmers have stopped planting cotton until we get a rain.

"Icon-treated seed has been in short supply here, and we're going to try to stay on top of water weevils this year with a pyrethroid. Until this year we've always drained for weevil control, but with the dry seasons lately it's been hard to get fields pumped up again. One client has a bad, bad problem with barnyardgrass, and we're looking at Regiment and other new chemistry to see what we can do."

Curt Johnson, Agronomy Production Specialist, Agrilience Tech Services, Dermott, Ark.:

"Rain through here varied. From Pine Bluff down to the Dumas and the Watson area we picked up 4.5" to 6" last week. From there south it dropped off. Around Lake Village it ran from .6" to 1". We were getting dry and about to start flushing some fields, so this rain was a godsend.

"We've had little showers off and on before all the rain last week, and that's helped the Command. It fell off last year due to weather conditions. Four fields just outside of Pine Bluff will go to a flood late this week or early next week. This was some of the first rice planted.

"We're 80% to 85% planted now, and most of what's left is toward the Louisiana line. People chose not to plant as early as they did last year."