

# RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

From Looking South Communications, Owen Taylor, Editor

April 29, 2003

Here is this week's issue of *RiceFax*, sponsored by Valent U.S.A. Corporation, maker of BOLERO and REGIMENT herbicides. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Owen Taylor, Editor

## OVERVIEW

Parts of Texas still need rain, as does a large portion of the Midsouth.

Of note this week: generous *but limited* contract offers from at least one miller and an exporter will likely increase the final planted acreage in the Midsouth.

These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

## TEXAS/SOUTH LA.

**DeWayne Dopslauf, Agri-liance, Wharton, Texas:** "We're just starting to spray. Some signalgrass slipped through, but we're mainly spraying broadleaves. We've got a little Bolero or Stam going out. We're not close enough

to the flood and need something to hold things back a little while longer.

"Rice is spiking to tillering, depending on where you are, and some of that is in the same field. We haven't had significant rain in about 2 months. Everything went from too wet to too dry, and there's been some flushing. Dry weather isn't hurting the rice yet, but rowcrops are beginning to feel the effect."

**Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.:** "We've already sprayed a field in Allen Parish twice for rice water weevils. We're still finding a few adults and are watching them. The treatments gave good kills, but it's an area with heavy pressure.

"I got my first call about a conventional field sprayed with Newpath where the driver got confused. This kind of thing isn't unexpected.

"Everything else is pretty routine, except that we're going to have a late crop. But the weather in the last week has really moved things along. One field had emergence on April 22 and was almost at 2 leaves 7 days later."

**Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas:** "We're at the mid-seedling stage on a lot of the crop and about 90% planted. Late planted fields are coming along, but early rice looks terrible. Stands and seedlings are weak due to cold, wet conditions. Less than 50% of those stands are what we'd like to have.

"We've still had to flush those early stands where rain totals were low. Some fields are on their fourth flushing, so it's already looking like an expensive crop on the front end.

"Some of these fields could benefit from another 20-25 pounds of N to make up for weak stands and improve tillering. Growers may even consider applying some N a little earlier, rather than waiting for the pre-flood application. In other words, give it a boost now and make up some of the difference right away."

## MIDSOUTH

**Rudy Randleman, Rudy's Field Service, Paragould, Ark.:**

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“We’re 90-95% planted. A big portion of it finally got rain last Thursday, and about 50% has emerged. The rain averaged 1.5" to 2". I was glad for the rain to get herbicides activated. Also, I was hoping the rain would slow some people down so we wouldn’t have the whole crop planted at once.”

**Wayne Dulaney, Dulaney Seed Co., Clarksdale, Miss.:** “A lot of rice has been planted, and I started checking fields today that are up to a nice stand. Most people did a good job with burndown, although some Command didn’t go out ahead of planting due to windy conditions.

“We were expecting rice acreage to be off 15-20%, but it looks like it may end up even with 2002. Uncle Ben offered a pretty lucrative contract for a dollar over and some earlier deliveries. There weren’t a lot of those contracts, but they did spur the market and prompt more planting.

“Icon treatments are up quite a bit. Some customers talked about dropping Release to put the money into Icon, but that’s been limited. Generally, people put a value on getting the crop up faster, so they kept Release in the program.”

**Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension Rice Agronomist, Stuttgart, Ark.:** “The crop is in pretty good shape, and we’re 65-70% planted, based on what I’m seeing and feedback from people in the field. So, we’re pretty far ahead of normal. Quite a bit is coming up, too. There were problems with emergence in some rice planted in

late March and early April, maybe where it was planted a little too deep and had to contend with too much cool weather.

“Dealers are telling me more Icon is being used. Some growers weren’t happy with stands last year due to lespedeza worms, and they’re going with the seed treatment this season.”

**Allen McKnight, Delta Ag Consulting, Greenville, Miss.:** “We’re 80-90% finished with planting. Except around Rolling Fork and Leland we didn’t get much rain out of this last system, and we’re flushing just about everything to activate chemicals and gain emergence.

“This has been an extremely fast start. We went from almost zero acreage planted to nearly finished in a lot of areas in just 10 days. I don’t know that we’ve ever planted so fast during this part of the year. There’s going to be a lot of rice compacted into a relatively short time, which puts some pressure on people checking fields, spraying fields and everything related to harvest.

“We thought acreage would be down at least 10%, but Uncle Ben and at least one exporter got people interested with some pretty good contracts. A lot of farmers and their bankers changed their minds and increased the rice acreage.

“With dry conditions and less-than-ideal chemical activation, we’re having to treat quite a few fields that have small grass now with Stam or Stam combinations.”

**Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist, Stoneville,**

**Miss.:** “We still didn’t get enough rain in some places, and growers are flushing where the rice is coming up unevenly or there wasn’t enough rain to activate herbicides. Some treatments for grass are being made.”

**Curt Johnson, CRC Ag Consulting, LLC, Lake Village, Ark.:** “A little of our rice is up. Where it was planted 3 weeks ago and went through all the wet, cold weather it’s had a hard time and is barely up. Rice planted in the last week or so has benefited from warmer soil and recent rain, and it’s just coming up. Herbicide activation looks pretty good on the early fields. On some of the sandier ground we’ll have to treat signalgrass, but it’s no real problem.”

**Keith Collins, Richland Parish Extension Agent, Rayville, La.:** “We’re about 30% finished with rice planting, and things are going wide open. We’ve still got a lot of acreage in lowlands, and it’s taking longer for those fields to dry out. Despite that, we still could use a rain. We got .5" in places Thursday, but some flushing is still underway.”

**Hugh Whitby, Rice Consultant, Agrilience, Blackfish, Ark.:** “We’re still planting. The rain last week helped a lot, but the ground has already dried out again and is crusting over. Some of the Command didn’t get enough moisture for thorough activation and we’ve got grass coming through in those fields. After this next front comes through we’ll treat the small grass that’s out there.”