

RiceFax: Midsouth/Texas Edition

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Here is this week's issue of *RiceFax*, sponsored by the Midsouth and Texas staff of Valent U.S.A. Corporation, maker of Regiment® and Bolero® rice herbicides.

OVERVIEW

Rain developed late last week in parts of Texas and south Louisiana, the first significant showers some areas have had since March or April. Row crops needed the showers. But moist conditions will give rice disease a more favorable environment.

A limited amount of sheath blight treatments could start late this week in south Louisiana. Heading has begun in numerous fields in south Louisiana, and early fields in Texas are nearly to that point. Stinkbugs are building on field edges.

In the upper Midsouth, rice needs more heat to keep it bouncing back from cold weather in May and early June. More drift problems were noted in Mississippi and Arkansas.

These reports were made Monday afternoon and Tuesday.

TEXAS/S. LA

Dan Bradshaw, Crop Aid Agri Consultants, El Campo, Texas: "Last Thursday we got .5" to 6" of rain. It blew out levees in places. At my home, it totaled nearly 3", and we'd only gotten .25" there since March 16.

"Some rice is starting to head. We're putting out fungicides on a few fields. Disease pressure hasn't been all that great yet, but it's coming. Conditions down in the canopy are pretty favorable right now. We're mainly seeing sheath blight.

"Stinkbugs haven't been too bad, even where rice is starting to head. Grasshoppers are attracting egrets to a few fields. The birds, in turn, are tromping down the rice. That fosters more chance for sheath blight. Some of this has just started around Katie in scattered fields."

Eddie Eskew, Jeff Davis Parish Extension Agent, Jennings, La.: "Overall, our crop looks pretty good. Our first rice, the Jefferson, is beginning to head this week, and we'll probably see our first Cocodrie

and Cypress start early next week. Stinkbugs are building on borders. As we reach 50% heading, I anticipate that many of these fields will have to be treated right off the bat.

"Disease pressure is minimal. One field of Cheniere caught some rain earlier, and it has enough sheath blight to merit spraying."

Garry N. McCauley, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Eagle Lake, Texas: "It's been raining, finally. It's going to help the other crops, and the rain will give people a chance to cut back on some pumping. But this will aggravate disease pressure, and it comes just as we get past PD and right before we have a lot of heads popping next week.

"Totals ranged from .5" to 3" through this area late last week. It cleared up over the weekend, but then it's been raining most of today (Tuesday). They got more rain northeast of Houston, and some levees blew out. That same area got 5-6" of pounding rain plus hail damage a couple of weeks before.

"A reminder: our field day at

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Eagle Lake is July 1, and at Beaumont it's July 11."

Johnny Saichuk, Louisiana Extension Rice Specialist, Crowley, La.: "The bad news is that everything that's heading out has stinkbugs on it. The good news is, we don't have much headed out yet, maybe 1%. But in a few days we will have a lot more to that point. Stinkbugs are waiting on field edges now.

"No rice has been treated, to my knowledge, but we just made our first recommendation. The field wasn't headed out enough, but it will be later this week.

"Disease is surprisingly light. We found a few spots after the rain. But in our research verification fields in south Louisiana today (Tuesday) we didn't find as much as expected.

"A reminder: the Crowley field day is June 26, starting at 8 a.m."

MIDSOUTH

John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie's Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.: "Most of our rice looks pretty. About 75% will be at midseason May 16-20, based on DD50 printouts. We've already started midseason on 800 acres. So far, we haven't had anything identified as herbicide drift, but there's a lot around."

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coushatta, La.: "We've been treating our early rice with Karate Z for rice water weevils. They keep coming into edges from grassy areas, and we've sprayed whole fields and then treated strips at least 2 additional times. We have a bunch of May rice that's not flooded yet."

Joe Street, Mississippi Extension Rice Specialist, Stoneville, Miss.: "We're just past midseason on some of the early rice, and the last of the late planted rice is just

emerging. The early crop, where we don't have herbicide drift, looks fair to good. I haven't seen any disease problems yet. Other than drift injury, there aren't a lot of concerns. Growers are cleaning up weeds where soil-applied materials didn't work.

"We have problem spots in some fields. We're about to decide these are related to drift. It may somehow hinge on emergence or timing factors. The wind brought the material into the field, and some areas in the field might have been susceptible. Next to the woods you may not find these spots because the wind blocked them, but they're scattered through the rest of the field.

"Where we've got confirmed drift, there are cases with significant replanting. One grower replanted 400 acres, and another lost 1,200 to 1,300 acres. In fields with damage that won't be replanted, it's hard to tell how much yield will be affected. A field still might make 90% of its normal yield, or it could make 100% if it fully recovers."

Dan Roach, Ind. Consultant, Cleveland, Miss.: "We're hitting midseason on 20% of our acreage, and we'll reach that point on a good deal of the balance next week. A little 2,4DB is going out. With some sunny days, the crop looks pretty good. We've only had 3 days all summer with temperatures over 90, and the crop has moved real slow until now."

Wendell Minson, Bootheel Crop Consultants, Dexter, Mo.: "We're getting rain today and have a chance of scattered showers over the next 5 days. The heat is just getting to normal. It made it to 86 Monday, and that's the hottest day we've had. We're way behind on heat units.

"According to the National Weather Service, the period covering the last 2 weeks in May and the

first week of June was the coldest in this area since they started keeping records. Nighttime temperatures were running 49-50, and daytime highs barely broke into the 70s. Rice is just starting to recover.

"About 65% of our rice is at permanent flood or we're pumping now. I'd estimate that 20% of our crop looks excellent, 70% is good to fair, and 10% is poor. We're still planting rice. Some water-seeded will go out Wednesday, and we've just planted a little on freshly graded acreage."

Ross Wood, Manager and Certified Crop Advisor, Almyra Farmers, Almyra, Ark.: "Things are starting to slow down a little in the rice. Wheat is being cut and soybeans are being planted. In the rice, we're just getting into midseason. We're putting on some Grandstand and 2,4DB. I've had 1-2 calls on rice water weevils, but nothing major. The crop actually looks pretty good, all things considered."

Mike McCain, Manager, Agriliance, Shelby, Miss.: "The rice is looking real good. Most of mine was planted before the early rains, and that helped preemergence materials. We've come back in a few spots with Facet or Clincher. A little rice is at midseason, and we're approaching it on most of the rest. The cotton is delayed, but rice is pretty much on time."

Kevin Fisher, Consultant, Pro-Ag Services, Wynne, Ark.: "Rice is starting to turn the corner. We're still trying to clean up some stuff. We did a little midseason work last week, and we have a little more rice approaching midseason now. I found one spot of headed barnyardgrass that had a load of stinkbugs on it. It was one spot in a 100-acre field. Insect pressure has been very light this year, even in wheat."